



THE INDEPENDENT

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THE FRANKENSTEIN EFFECT IN THE BUSINESS REVIEW

ABOUT BUSINESS PEOPLE, FOR BUSINESS PEOPLE

YOUNG MANDELSON THE MAKING OF A MAVERICK

REVIEW FRONT



PLUS: THE INFORMATION DAILY, THE ONLY ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE YOU'LL EVER NEED. WITH MORE FILM, THEATRE AND TV LISTINGS THAN ANY OTHER PAPER. REVIEW, PAGES 13-18

'Over the ridge, a 21st century war rages. Here, it's a biblical tragedy'

AFTER MOST of the lights have gone out, and the darkness has obscured the details of clothes and shoes, it is impossible to tell what country or even what century you are in. Malina Mala is the village at the end of Macedonia - a few hundred yards to the north, over the ridge, is Kosovo, where who knows what is taking place. At night, the soldiers guarding the border peer over onto the plain below and watch the fires - the exploding bombs of the Nato planes, and the villages torched by the Serbian police. But, by the skin of its teeth, Malina Mala is part of Macedonia and here, as a 21st century war is waged over the ridge, a medieval, almost Biblical, scene is acting itself out.

It takes the form of a procession: a long straggling parade of people and animals which begins at dusk and continues for most of the night. The lucky ones come in on squat ponies, lashed with bags and blankets, staggering lamely down the muddy village track.

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But most of them have walked here, for eight, ten, twelve hours or more - people of all ages and professions, in leather jackets, overcoats and shawls.

In front of the first house in the town they stop, and the men light cigarettes and talk quietly. There are hundreds of them outside, thousands more in the houses, but only two sounds make any impression: overhead, the distant supersonic roar of invisible Nato jets, and on the road the crying of babies.

Malina Mala has been swamped, and even the people in the village have lost count. On Saturday some 3,000 refugees arrived this way; by yesterday morning, the locals were saying that the same number again had arrived with more ex-

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Malina Mala on the Kosovo-Macedonia border

pected last night. Malina Mala has 60 houses, simple two-storey structures of stone and wood, in which the lower floor is given over to workshops and animals. Every available space is now occupied by refugees, and there is no more shelter to be had.

In the school, where many of the women and children are quartered, it is standing room only - there are bodies in the corridors, under and on top of the tables, pressed up hard against the walls where blackboards and maps still hang. The mosque is full of sleeping men; in the house where our small group finally finds room, there are more than 50 people. And when we wake up in the morning there are a few hundred or so men standing and hunching around fires. It is snowing.

In Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, the aid agencies are asking themselves where the refugees have gone, and the answer is here. By some unfathomable caprice of the Serbian army, the official border crossings between Kosovo and Macedonia - at Jazhinca, Tabanovce and Blace - have been virtually deserted. Instead of allowing their victims through these places, where refugee camps, medical care, and a registration system have been prepared, they are squeezing them out, drop by human drop, across the bitter mountain terrain, to Malina Mala, one of the places in Macedonia least able to shelter them.

Even the journey from Skopje gives you some idea of what these people have been through, for on Monday when we made our attempt, there was no way in but to walk. There is a road to Malina - a terrible road, but accessible by Jeep. But ours was turned back five miles from the village, at a command post operated by the Macedonian police. On Sunday, two days of aid was successfully brought through by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP); on Monday even they were turned back by the border guards, who insisted that the ill-defined border



A boy with his sister yesterday riding into Malina Mala, the first village in Macedonia reached by the procession of refugees crossing the ridge from Kosovo. Tom Pileton

road was too dangerous. Another road, blocked by snow, skirts the opposite ridge safely inside Macedonia. From here we walked.

Two thoughts occur to you as you travel through this kind of country. The first is the scale of the task which Nato forces face, if and when they finally do invade Kosovo. The valleys fall and rise in ankle-twisting de-

scents and exhausting climbs. The mountains are forested, and the rough tracks pass beneath rocky overhangs and blind slopes, perfect terrain for ambushes and guerrilla defence tactics. The second thought is of the Kosovar Albanian refugees.

After three hours of walking, burdened only with cameras and notebooks, we arrived

speechless with exhaustion. But the refugees know that anything they do not carry with them they will lose forever - hence the bulging suitcases, lugged across hills and rivers, and above all the human cargo of the sick, elderly and disabled.

There are so many stories here that it would take years to make an account of them all. In the school, I saw a smartly-

dressed man on crutches, a woman nine months pregnant, numerous tiny babies, and men and women so old that they could barely stand. The local villagers, all of them ethnic Albanians, spoke of finding people with amputated limbs struggling through the mud. Yesterday, six old people were unaccounted for.

TURN TO PAGE THREE

Eight injured in school shootout

GUNMEN once more brought terror to an American school yesterday, sparking a massive police operation.

Eight students were shot and seriously wounded when two youths, dressed in black and wearing ski masks, walked into Columbine High School, in the Denver suburb of Littleton, and opened fire. Hand grenades were also thrown. A local television station, KUSA-TV, reported that the injured students were taken to hospitals in the area. One female student was said to have nine gunshot wounds to the chest.

As many as 17 students were thought to have been taken hostage by the gunmen.

Several witnesses told local television reporters that they saw two men dressed in black

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

trench coats and armed with shotguns - or even machine guns - roaming through the school firing at people and throwing fire bombs.

A student, identified as Janina, told KCNC-TV: "They had black trench coats on. They were shooting people and throwing grenades and stuff. We just walked out and they started shooting people... We saw like three people get shot. They were just shooting, they didn't care who they shot at. They were just shooting."

"We didn't think it was real and then we saw blood," she said. Her voice broke with anguish as she spoke.



Columbine High School in Littleton, Denver, where gunmen opened fire yesterday

One student, Kristin Carbo, said she saw "kids go down". A parent, Kim Sander, said: "My daughter called me over half-hour ago, said it was

a white male shooter. She said he was on a ledge shooting down at students. Some girls came back to pick up a girl but the girl did not move."

There also were reports of an explosion and fire. Steve Davis, a spokesman for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, said: "We do have

injuries... right now all I've got is there have been several shots fired, some explosions heard and some fire in the school." Ambulances and police cars were arriving at the school around lunchtime, as a special operations team was called in.

Jonathon Ladd said he saw students running and heard shots ricocheting off lockers.

Columbine High is in the middle-class suburb of Littleton, population 35,000, southwest of Denver. It opened in 1973 and has an enrollment of about 1,800.

Last school year, a series of school shootings at schools in Pearl, Mississippi, Jonesboro, Arkansas, West Paducah, Kentucky, and Springfield, Oregon, shocked the nation.

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Austria	45c 20	Italy	15.000
Belgium	45c 20	Lebanon	1.875
Canada	50c 20	Malta	NS10 65
Cyprus	50c 20	Netherlands	1.500
Czech Republic	1.115	Norway	1.500
Denmark	50c 20	Poland	1.500
Finland	50c 20	Singapore	50c 55
France	50c 20	Spain	1.500
Germany	50c 20	Sweden	1.500
Gibraltar	50c 20	Switzerland	50c 55
Greece	50c 20	Turkey	1.500
Hungary	50c 20	USA	50c 55

ALLURE
FOR MEN

CHANEL

Serbs cross border to kill refugees

MONTENEGRO

BY MARCUS TANNER

SERBIA HAS deployed paramilitary death squads into neighbouring Montenegro to hunt down and kill Albanians who have fled there from the terror in Kosovo. One month into the alliance air campaign there are signs that Serbia is moving fast to tighten its stranglehold on Yugoslavia's rebellious junior republic.

At least six Albanian refugees who thought they had found some security in border villages inside the republic were killed this week by "unidentified uniformed police" who crossed over from Serbia and shot them.

The government of the pro-Western republic, which with Serbia forms Federal Yugoslavia but opposes President Slobodan Milosevic, yesterday sent the deputy prime minister to investigate the killings.

"This is evidently a war crime, a crime against humanity," Dragisa Burzan said on reaching the alleged massacre site at Rozaje, near the border with Kosovo. Mr Burzan said he would insist that Serbia handed over the troops responsible for trial in the Montenegrin capital, Podgorica.

The outbreak against Yugoslav federal forces was unprecedented but there is scant chance of Belgrade taking any

notice. The 700,000 inhabitants of Montenegro are virtually powerless to stop 9-million-strong Serbia from taking over their tiny coastal republic.

The Montenegrin newspaper Vjesti said a woman aged 70 and a 13-year-old boy were among the six victims killed near Rozaje but refugees and local residents told the newspaper they believed the Serbs troops had killed many more people. They added that the Yugoslav army had brought heavy artillery into the area.

They also said Serb police and soldiers - in flagrant violation of Montenegro's sovereignty - were ethnically cleansing a whole string of villages on the Montenegrin border with Kosovo.

"The government will discuss the issue today," the Social Affairs Minister, Predrag Drecun, said in Podgorica. "Montenegro did not participate in the creation of this war and I do not believe any Montenegrin wants violence here."

The republic's pro-Western government, led by Milo Djukanovic, has already exhausted Belgrade's patience by obstinately refusing to denounce Nato's bombing campaign, and by giving refuge to at least 60,000 Albanians whom the Serbs had driven out of Kosovo.



A Montenegrin border guard watching Kosovars fleeing into the republic to escape Serb forces

AP/David Brauchli

Yesterday the Yugoslav army seized control of Montenegro's land border with Croatia and closed the frontier crossing. At the same time, several hundred Serbian soldiers were reported to have poured into the UN-patrolled demilitarised zone between Croatia and Montenegro, prompting Zagreb to lodge an official complaint to the UN Security Council.

Croatian sources said the country might respond to the Yugoslav army intrusion by moving its own forces into the demilitarised zone as well. That could trigger a worse nightmare for Nato - renewed fighting between Croatia and

Yugoslavia, who went to war in 1991 after Croatia declared its independence.

The Podgorica government also said Belgrade had confronted it yesterday with a demand for control over Montenegro's police force to be handed over to the Yugoslav army. That would effectively end Montenegro's autonomy within Yugoslavia as well as striking terror into the hearts of the Albanian refugees in the republic, who have so far been shielded by the Montenegrin police from Serbian ethnic cleansing.

Tension in Podgorica is already so high that the government of Mr Djukanovic has

stationed police marksmen on the roof tops of government buildings and the local television station, to protect them in the event of a coup staged by the Yugoslav army.

But if Mr Milosevic does stage a military coup against Montenegro the key figure is already in place. At the beginning of the conflict with Nato, the Yugoslav President replaced Radoslav Martinovic as commander of the 2nd Army in Montenegro with Milorad Obradovic, a strong Serb nationalist known to be loyal to Belgrade.

While Serbia certainly has the physical power to extinguish resistance in Montenegro

and install a more obedient government, a coup would certainly - in the long term - strengthen pro-independence feeling in the republic, which has been on the rise for several years.

Montenegrins have a proud tradition of resisting outside invaders that dates back to the long centuries when their tiny state, whose name means "Black Mountain", held out against the Ottoman empire. In 1918 the country was fiercely divided into two factions, known as the greens and the whites, over plans to merge their kingdom with Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia to form the new state of Yugoslavia. Many were never

reconciled to the forced exile of their royal family and the loss of their independence. Today their political descendants are bitter about the way that Serbia's confrontational policies have ruined their hopes of forging closer ties to the West.

But a coup against Montenegro would stun public opinion in Serbia, too. The Serbs see the Montenegrins as family, and as fellow members of the Serbian Orthodox Church, all in all as very different from Catholic Croats, or Muslim Bosnians and Albanians. Most would be traumatised to see Serbs fighting the one nation that they thought they could count on in a crisis.

'Boys forced to give blood'

ATROCITIES

BY MARCUS TANNER

THE WESTERN alliance accused the Serbian army yesterday of setting up rape camps for ethnic Albanian women and forcing young Albanian boys to donate blood for Serb casualties.

The Nato spokesman Jamie Shea also said men from Kosovo were being used as human shields for Serb tanks and were made to dig mass graves to bury fellow refugees killed by Serbs during "ethnic cleansing" operations.

Mr Shea's account was one of the most comprehensive summaries of allegations of atrocities provided by the alliance. None of the information can be independently confirmed because Serbia has banned Western journalists from Kosovo, except when they are brought in under Serb escort for hand-picked events. Most of it comes from refugees or from Kosovo guerrillas using satellite phones.

Mr Shea said many refugees told of rapes in the western Kosovo towns of Pec and Djakovica. Women sent to an army camp near Djakovica were repeatedly raped by Serb soldiers, he said. In Pec, the headquarters of the Serbian church, Serb forces had turned a hotel into a brothel imprisoning Albanian women.

"The commander apparently has organised a roster of his soldiers to allow them all an evening at the hotel," he said.

Refugees also said the Serbs had taken hundreds of boys as young as 14 "either to use as human shields or as blood banks for Serb casualties".

Others said 700 men had been used as human shields last week near the town of Oravac in central Kosovo. "The ethnic Albanian men were forced to stand in front of tanks in the rain for two days with their hands tied behind their heads," Mr Shea said. "A few escaped by paying the soldiers 10,000 Deutschmarks."

"These atrocity reports are too numerous to suggest they are without foundation."

'Now we take your money, next it will be your lives'

FROM PAGE ONE

The fate of these people illustrates once again the most frightening thing about the Serb programme: its systematic nature. This is what happened: on 5 April, from various accounts gathered in the past two days, three men were executed by Serb police in the village of Lubozhde, close to the town of Vitina, 10 miles over the border. Their names were Mustafa Shema, Muhamet Muharremi and Xhemal Adem, aged 32, 28 and 20 respectively. No one spoke to saw the killings personally, but the men were seen being chased by police and later their bodies were found by the river with a single bullet wound through each temple.

Lubishde was already swollen with refugees from eight nearby villages, which had been mortared by the Serbs - its population of 2,025 had grown to 5,000. The police came back and started ransacking houses and stealing valuables on the pretext of searching for guns. They took tractors and confiscated car keys. That night, a group of villagers decided to leave for Macedonia but, close to the border, they were fired upon by Serbs, and a child was wounded.

For 10 days, they stayed in



the village. "We slept with our clothes on every night, expecting the Serbs to break in," said the village's doctor (like most of the people, the doctor did not want to be named). "We lived in terror. We heard voices talking outside the house and those nights we spent without sleep."

Last Friday, the military police came back, asking for villagers who had been active in Kosovo politics. "The food reserves were nearly at an end, and I couldn't treat people any more because I had no medicine," said the doctor. On Friday evening, the village collectively decided to move.

The Serbs taunted them as they left. "They shouted, 'You asked for Nato - so why isn't Nato helping you now?' and

"Nato is bombing us, so we're going to destroy you", said one woman. Many of the refugees were robbed of money and valuables. "They threatened to kill us if we didn't hand it over," said Abdullah Bilali, who arrived on Monday night from the village of Begunc. "There were cases of people losing two, three, four, ten, twenty thousand Deutschmarks. They said, 'Now we take your money; next it will be your lives.' But even after they had struggled to the border, their problems were not over."

It is clear why the Macedonian police do not welcome journalists into Blace. For the first day at least, they treated the refugees with callous aggression. "The Macedonians kept us sitting in the rain for two hours," said one father of two small children, who called himself Hazi. "They hit us, and pretended they were going to fire their guns at us, and said they'd shoot us dead if we tried to cross. We came here seeking shelter. We never thought the Macedonians would do this kind of thing to us."

They were driven back, but eventually found a way across with the help of the Albanians from Malina Mala.

The food the WFP brought

was running out yesterday morning. Some of the children have rashes; many of the refugees have hacking coughs. Robert Allemand of Medecins du Monde, the only doctor to make it past the police yesterday, said there were malnutrition cases. The village offers only one kind of protection now: relative security from Serb attack, even if only by a few hundred yards.

Hundreds of thousands of Kosovars lack even that. The refugees in Malina Mala spoke of tens of thousands of their compatriots whose villages were almost certain to be cleared in the next few days. Nato intelligence sources in Skopje are predicting 200,000 refugees making their way to the borders of Albania and Macedonia and likely to arrive over the next 10 days. Another 600,000 to 800,000 are said to be marooned in the hills and villages. It was a desolate thing to drive out of the village yesterday, to look down from the road on to the Kosovo plain and think of those still out there.

Along the road out, a soldier said that Monday night had been the most spectacular so far. "There were bombs and flames everywhere. Kosovo looked like a bonfire."

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

Readers' cash still pours in

THE INDEPENDENT
KOSOVO
APPEAL



READERS OF *The Independent* are continuing to respond generously to our appeal for help for the refugees of Kosovo. The total has now exceeded £585,000.

"The money is still pouring in. This is very encouraging," said a spokesman for the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC), the body co-ordinating the appeal. We are amazed at the generosity of your readers."

The money will be used to buy food blankets, medical

supplies, emergency shelters sanitation and water purification equipment.

More than 600,000 Kosovo Albanians have fled or been forced from their homes by the Serbs. Nearly 140,000 are now living in huge refugee camps in Macedonia, while 350,000 are in Albania. About 15,000 refugees have been flown to safety in western Europe.

Tens of thousands more flooded into the camps yesterday and many are surviving without any shelter.

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WAR IN THE BALKANS

KLA tells Nato: 'Arm us or invade'

THE RESISTANCE

BY STEVE BOGGAN AND FRON NAZI in Tirana

THOUSANDS OF Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) troops are massing in the north of the province to defend 250,000 ethnic Albanian civilians trapped by the fighting, and to prevent Yugoslav forces from partitioning the area.

According to a KLA commander in the field, more than 10,000 men are offering fierce resistance in the north to counter any hopes Slobodan Milosevic might harbour of holding on to the mineral-rich region in the event of a peace deal being struck with Nato.

In interviews with *The Independent*, Xhavit Haliti, the KLA's political spokesman, said that the entire population of Kosovo could be returned to their homes by the end of July if Nato would either deploy ground troops or provide the KLA with weapons.

He said the KLA was sharing intelligence with Nato, was guiding Alliance aircraft to Serb positions, and was holding three more prisoners of war - two Serbs and a Russian mercenary - inside Kosovo.

Speaking by satellite phone, a KLA commander in the field, who did not wish to be named, said the KLA had been defending 250,000 civilians in the Lap-Saki and Shalja region in the north. "We are doing well, but we are concerned about food and medicines, which are running very low," he said.

Mr Haliti said Serb-free "safe zones" had been estab-

lished around several areas in central Kosovo. "We believe we now hold more than one-third of Kosovo," he said. "Give us the tools and we will do the job."

Along with protecting the Albanian civilians, the KLA is trying to prevent Yugoslav forces from completely depopulating the region as part of a potential partition offer.

The strategy is aimed at holding onto these areas, so they cannot be used as bargaining chips by Milosevic. Kosovo Albanians fear that Belgrade may offer a truce and hand over part of the province in exchange for Kosovo's strategic, economic and historical assets in the north. These include valuable mines and sites of religious importance to the Serbs.

At the back of the KLA's mind is the precedent of Bosnia. For several years after ethnic warfare broke out in Bosnia in 1992 the Western powers maintained they would never accept a territorial division of the republic along ethnic lines. But, in 1995, the US-brokered peace deal at Dayton, Ohio, partitioned Bosnia between the Serbs and the Muslim-Croat federation.

They also know that Milosevic's one-time intellectual mentor, the Serbian writer Dobrica Cosic, has often played with the notion of partitioning Kosovo between Serbs and Albanians, with the



A Kosovo Liberation Army soldier outside a refugee camp yesterday in Kukes, northern Albania. *EPA/Anja Niedringhaus*

Serbs getting the biggest share of the region, although they comprise only 10 per cent of Kosovo's population.

The KLA believes the Serbs intend to partition Kosovo along a line stretching from the north-western city of Pec to the south-eastern region of Krajmorav. Such a line would give the Serbs the capital of the province, Pristina, the major town of Mitrovica, part of the

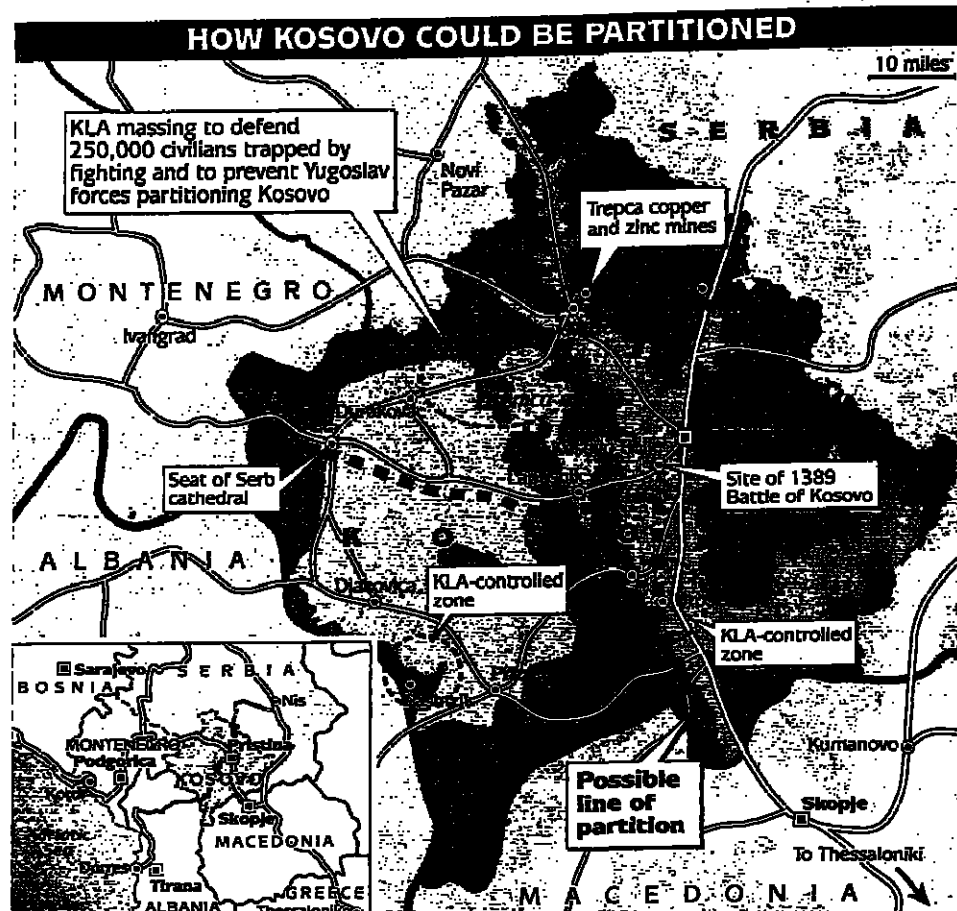
Drenica region and Kosovo Polje, site of the Serbian battle with the Turks in 1389 and a place with great historical resonance for the Serbs. It is also thought that the Serbs have their eyes on copper and zinc mines in the Shalja area.

Belgrade is also believed to be aiming to secure the major highways that lead west, from Kosovo to the Montenegro port of Kotor, through the city

of Pec. By taking the region of Kraj Morave, the Serbs would build a buffer to the highway that skirts Kosovo and leads, via Macedonia, to the Greek port of Thessaloniki.

The total partition plan is believed to envisage an ethnically pure Slav border between Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia.

Mr Haliti believes the KLA can prevent any such parti-



tion. During an interview at the KLA headquarters in Tirana, he said the Kosovars were making gains and were playing a significant role in the Nato bombardment. "We have been giving details of Serb positions to Nato and, where we target, Nato bombs," he said. "There is an exchange of intelligence. We give it to Nato and we also receive it."

Mr Haliti revealed that he had met General Wesley Clark, the supreme Allied commander, three times. Each time he had appealed for Nato to intervene on the ground, or to supply the KLA with armour and artillery. It currently has only automatic weapons and mortars.

Mr Haliti denied the KLA was receiving weapons from Nato - but on his desk was an

equipment requisition list, written in English and bearing the serial number "B1-G2". G2 is an identification code for US military intelligence.

"We are doing well and we have established some safe zones," he said. "We have also been taking prisoners. We are holding two Serbs and a Russian in the town of Pashtrik, which we control. They are officers and are being interrogated and held in accordance with international law. They were all captured in Yugoslav military uniforms." He said the Russian was a mercenary.

"Our main concern is that Nato either ends in ground troops or gives us weapons," he said. "If it gives us weapons, we believe we can drive the Serbs out without risk to Nato troops, then they

could follow later. We have been making representations to Nato countries."

The Albanians fear that Nato will never arm the KLA and will eventually be seduced by the offer of a ceasefire. Partition could then follow.

Ylber Hysa, of the Kosovo Action and Civic Initiative, formerly a Pristina-based think-tank, said: "If the West buys into any part of this [Serb] scheme for ending the war, then they will have set a precedent for the region. Aggression will have been rewarded and it will be clear that territories can be divided according to both ethnic and economic lines."

Fron Nazi is a correspondent for the Institute for War and Peace Reporting

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Serb tanks wrecked by air strikes

AIR WAR
BY JOHN DAVISON

NATO BOMBERS have destroyed six more Serbian tanks in Kosovo, as Apache tank-killing helicopters head for Albania to kickstart the next phase of the air campaign.

Alliance spokesmen said several armoured personnel carriers and other military vehicles were also destroyed in raids on Monday. But commanders are relying heavily on the Apaches to make a real impact on the situation.

Nato has repeatedly shied from giving a running total of tanks hit, but it has given separate briefings on 17 believed "kills". The rate of strikes is increasing, although there is a long way to go before Serb forces are seriously threatened. Analysts say the 40,000 Yugoslav army and special police in Kosovo, have 300 tanks.

Warplanes also attacked a FROG short-range surface-to-air missile launcher and its support vehicles and some 20 fixed targets including ammunition storage sites, radio relay stations and a command post.

Nato in Brussels reported that Serbian special police in Kosovo were now using tear gas in the Pristina area.

In London, General Sir Charles Guthrie, chief of the defence staff, said Nato had down a total of 8,000 sorties, of which 2,500 have been attack missions. The RAF has flown about 10 per cent of this, using Harrier GR-7s, Tornados flying

from Germany, Sea Harriers from HMS *Invincible*, tankers and other support aircraft.

General Guthrie said the figures emphasised three points - that a large amount of support flying has to be done to ensure attack flights could be carried out safely; that there was no "quick fix" solution to such a large-scale campaign, and that Nato was pursuing it with "utmost determination".

He added: "We can and will continue with these air strikes until the objectives of the international community have been met and the Kosovar Albanian people can return to their homes."

Alliance aircraft were again targeted by anti-aircraft fire and missile attacks but the attacks were suppressed and no aircraft were hit.

Tony Blair yesterday visited RAF crews at the Bruggen air base in Germany, from where Tornados GR-1 bombers fly against Yugoslavia.

He told them: "I would like to express my thanks and the gratitude of my country and of all the leaders of nations in Nato for the work these crews and the staff are doing in support of the Nato action."

Mr Blair said 50 per cent of Serbia's best fighter planes, the MIG-29s, had been destroyed, along with 25 per cent of its MIG-21s and 30 per cent of its Super Galebs, used in attacks on civilians in Kosovo.

TIMETABLE:
DAYS 27 AND 28

11am: Thousands of Serbs pray for peace in Belgrade at a service led by the head of the Russian Orthodox church.

12 noon: In a breakthrough for aid agencies struggling to house ethnic Albanians from Kosovo, Macedonia agrees to build a new refugee camp.

12.30pm: The UN refugee agency declares its camps in Macedonia full beyond capacity, leaving 2,000 to 3,000 new arrivals from Kosovo in no man's land.

1.40pm: Britain gives the UN war-crimes chief prosecutor, Louise Arbour, intelligence gathered in Yugoslavia on Serb killings in Kosovo before Nato air strikes began.

3.15pm: Yugoslav army closes Montenegro's border with Croatia.

4pm: The first of 24 US Apache attack helicopters arrives in Albania, Albanian television reports.

5.16pm: Six US senators introduce a resolution authorising President Bill Clinton to use "all necessary means" for the US and its allies to meet their goals in Kosovo.

5.53pm: Montenegro's deputy prime minister, Dragisa Burzan, said the Yugoslav army had killed "at least six" Kosovar refugees inside Montenegro and wounded an unknown number of other people.

THE BALKAN QUESTION

KEY ISSUES BEHIND THE WAR EXPLAINED

Are the Montenegrins Serbs, or a separate nation?

The Montenegrins are close relatives of the Serbs and share their Orthodox faith. But for many centuries they had their own state and since 1945 they have been a constituent republic of Yugoslavia.

In the early 1990s Montenegro supported Serbia in its wars against Muslim Bosnians and Catholic Croats and the republic made no move to secede from Yugoslavia.

Today they are much more divided. About half strongly

favour continuing ties with Serbia while the other half looks back with nostalgia to the days before 1918, when Montenegro was a separate kingdom under the Petrovic dynasty. At the moment the pro-independence faction is in power but it is feared that the Serb-dominated Yugoslav army may topple them at any moment.

Who still speaks Serbo-Croat?

No one. The hybrid language favoured by Tito's communists has died a dismal death in former Yugoslavia, where

three successor nations insist on calling their virtually indistinguishable languages Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian.

The Slovenes, Macedonians and Kosovars never spoke it well, if at all, to start with. The first two have their own separate Slavic languages while the Kosovars speak Albanian. There are dialects within Albanian but they do not follow international boundaries. In other words, there is no such thing as a specifically "Kosovar" version of Albanian.

MARCUS TANNER

Mande
adviser

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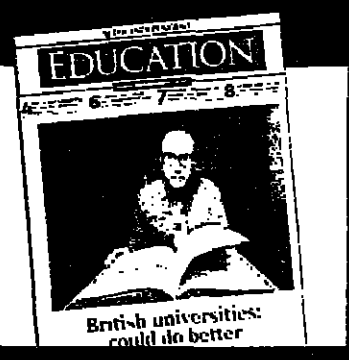
Child bomb victi



WITH THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW 'Once the big names were Oxford and Cambridge - now they're Harvard, Yale and Princeton'

THE DECLINE OF THE BRITISH UNIVERSITY, IN THE EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MURRAY, IAN JACK, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, SUSANNAH FRANKEL, BRIAN VINEY, PHILIP HENSHER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, DEBORAH ORR, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH



Straw says sorry for insult to Liverpool

JACK STRAW was forced to apologise yesterday after he caused widespread offence in Liverpool by claiming in a speech about crime that Scousers are "always up to something".

The Home Secretary made the comment at the launch of the Government's Crime Reduction Bill in Milton Keynes last Friday. As he outlined crime-cutting plans, he referred to his visit to Liverpool on Monday last week, when he viewed the Edge Hill area. The scheme involves erecting gates around houses to deter burglars.

Mr Straw told his audience: "I thought, 'What the devil is this?' You know what Scousers are like, always up to something - please do not repeat that to anyone from Liverpool."

The comments provoked anger and condemnation when they became public yesterday. The leader of Liverpool City Council, Mike Storey, accused Mr Straw of encouraging discrimination. "Mr Straw has just reinforced prejudiced, stereotypical views of Liverpool people. He should apologise," Mr Storey said.

Mr Straw sought to defuse the row last night, saying: "As an Essex man and a Blackburn supporter I often find myself the butt of jokes."

"My comments were meant to be light-hearted. I didn't intend to cause offence, but if anybody was offended by what I said then I offer my apologies."

The controversy comes at an embarrassing time, as Mr Straw is seeking to encourage a new concept of British citizenship which respects the differences in the population.

Mr Storey said: "Liverpool people can take a joke like everyone else, but this idea, this

view of Liverpool people, like with the TV series *Mersey Blues*, that crime is a career option on Merseyside - the facts prove that wrong. It's a constant drip-drip of stereotypical views."

Liverpudlians have a strong sense of identity because their strong Irish and Welsh immigrant sub-cultures have given them both a unique accent and a sense of detachment from the rest of the country, social experts said yesterday.

The original stereotype of Scousers as irreverent and humorous - exemplified by The Beatles - has in the past three decades turned into something less appealing. They are now sometimes characterised as lazy, hard-drinking whingers whose principal income comes from theft. This change in perception is perhaps the result of the social and economic hardship endured by Liverpool since the mid-Seventies' decline of the shipping trade, according to one expert.

Michael Billig, professor of social sciences at Loughborough University of Technology, said: "When a community has a strong sense of its own identity, outsiders recognising this, also develop a strong stereotype of what those people are like which is not always true. I don't expect the people who think Liverpoolians steal things have looked at the crime figures and made a value judgement."

Liverpudlians' strong sense of community was shown in full force to the rest of the country after the Hillsborough disaster on 15 April, 1989 - and again last week with the tenth anniversary commemoration service for the 96 killed.



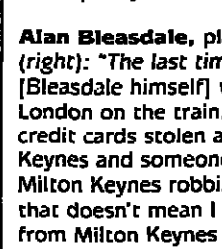
The Liver Building at Liverpool pier head, a symbol of the city's once-proud industry

SCOUSERS ANSWER BACK



Anne Robinson, journalist (left): "I think we have such a huge sense of humour I cannot imagine that anyone could be offended. When I heard he had said that, I just wondered who was offended by it. We are intelligent, witty and self-confident and Scousers would only be offended if they thought he had said something incredibly funny before they thought of it. I have found it a huge plus coming from Liverpool and I am very proud to be a Scouser."

Stan Boardman, Liverpool comedian: "Once again, it's someone in power having a go at Liverpool. It's something you'd expect from a Tory not a Labour minister. In a league table of thieves, Liverpool wouldn't even qualify for Europe."



Alan Bleasdale, playwright (right): "The last time this man [Bleasdale himself] went down to London on the train, he had all his credit cards stolen at Milton Keynes and someone went around Milton Keynes robbing me soft. But that doesn't mean I think everyone from Milton Keynes is a thief. What Straw said is a patronising cliché and even if he meant it as a joke, it is still offensive."

Gerry Marsden, who popularised the Liverpool anthem, "You'll Never Walk Alone": "It's just a load of rubbish. Nobody in Liverpool gives a damn what Jack Straw thinks. It's water off a duck's back."



Carla Lane, scriptwriter: "I am sure he meant no harm by it and anyway I think he is right - we are always up to something and may we continue to be. I don't think he meant we are always up to crime; I think he was just trying to be funny and it is very foolish to get upset about something that was not meant. You have to laugh and say we have got a little devil in us. We do get unfairly maligned but Liverpool has a lot to be proud of and Scousers need to stop being so quick to take offence."

Mandelson is still close adviser to party chiefs

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor



PETER MANDELSON is continuing to act as a close adviser to Tony Blair, despite his resignation from the Cabinet, according to the new biography of the former secretary of state for trade and industry.

The book suggests that since he stood down last December, Mr Mandelson has played an active role behind the scenes in influencing government policies, even though he has sought to keep a low public profile.

"The Prime Minister continued regularly to consult him in early morning telephone calls after he had resigned," says Donald Macintyre's biography, *Mandelson*. "He was closely involved, for example, in Blair's Commons statement on the EMU [European Monetary Union] changeover plans in February, urging, as usual, that it should send as clear a message as possible that the Government intended joining the single currency."

Mandelson: Playing a big role behind the scenes

The disclosures will alarm Labour MPs who oppose an early return to the Cabinet by Mr Mandelson. Some of his supporters hope Mr Blair will recall him next year, but his critics argue that a comeback should be delayed until after the next general election. "He needs to serve his sentence," one minister said yesterday.

It emerged at Westminster last night that a plan by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, to use Mr Mandelson as his un-

official envoy to the European Union has been shelved after objections by Joyce Quin, a Foreign Office minister.

However, Mr Mandelson has continued to act as Labour's representative to a working party set up by Mr Blair and Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, to work out a common, "third way" philosophy. Mr Mandelson came under fire from some Labour MPs for attending a meeting of the Anglo-German group at the Cabinet Office shortly after his resignation. The former minister has since attended an unpublished second meeting of the group in Cologne. The Macintyre book reveals that Mr Mandelson has also attended regular meetings of Labour's policy makers.

"Early in March he slipped into the old Labour stronghold of Sheffield's neo-Gothic town hall to advise the local Labour group on their forthcoming electoral struggle with the resurgent Liberal Democrats," says the book.

The book also discloses that Gordon Brown has told Mr Mandelson he is "absolutely confident" he could and would return to government. The two men attempted a reconciliation in January, after their feud was blamed for the disclosure of the £373,000 personal loan from Geoffrey Robinson that cost Mr Mandelson his cabinet job.

At the meeting, Mr Brown said that some of the people "around us" had known them only since the breach in their relationship after the death of John Smith in 1994. They did not understand the empathy and fondness that existed in the previous six years when they had worked closely together. Macintyre believes it is "too early to say" whether the relationship can be repaired.

The book concludes that Mr Mandelson can make a successful return to frontline politics. "The future is up to him; but at 45 he has one great fortune. He has a second chance."

A life less ordinary
Review: Front

IN BRIEF

Doctor cleared in baby death
HILARY EVANS, a 29-year-old junior doctor at Rotherham District General Hospital, South Yorkshire, was found not guilty yesterday of serious professional misconduct by the General Medical Council over the death of a premature baby after a massive overdose of morphine.

Arrests in Irish murder case
SEVERAL ARRESTS were made yesterday in raids by police investigating the murder of Frankie Curry, a Northern Ireland loyalist and former Red Hand Commando chief shot outside a club in west Belfast on St Patrick's Day in a suspected internal loyalist dispute.

Work stakes place in the Dome
SOME OF the first attractions visitors to the Millennium Dome will encounter will be a heckling boss and a clocking-on machine. Also on show will be a 100,000-hour clock, representing the average lifetime at work.

Child bomb victim leaves hospital
THE 23-MONTH-OLD boy who had a nail removed from his head after the Brixton bomb blast has left Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, a spokeswoman said.

Body odour the key to sexiness

GOOD-LOOKING men and women have the most attractive body odours, according to a study of students who were asked to rate the smell of T-shirts worn by the opposite sex.

The research provides new evidence that pheromones - hormone-like chemicals - are used as subliminal "sexual attractants" in humans.

Scientists at the University of Vienna asked 16 male students and 19 females to sleep in the same T-shirt for three nights to collect any pheromones they might emit. The researchers, Anja Rikowski and Karl Grammer, asked each student to sniff the T-shirts of the opposite sex

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

and rate them on a seven-point scale. The scientists also measured wrists, hands, ankles and feet to calculate the students' symmetry; previous studies have shown that asymmetrical people tend to be less attractive to the opposite sex.

The researchers report, in the current issue of *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, that a strong correlation existed between the assessment of the sexiness of each T-shirt and the symmetry of its wearer, indicating that attractive people appear to smell more alluring.

KOSOVO CRISIS

Tragedy in the Balkans

A massive humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Europe. Hundreds of thousands of people are in urgent need of help - **your help**. Those fleeing Kosovo have nothing and local people trying to help in neighbouring regions are overwhelmed. They and those left behind are in desperate need.

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Fairport star wakes up to his obituary

By DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

Dave Swarbrick

ONE OF the UK's best known folk/rock musicians woke up yesterday to read in *The Daily Telegraph* that he was dead.

Dave Swarbrick, 58, a violinist and singer formerly with Fairport Convention, had been seriously ill, but is in hospital and on the road to recovery.

The paper ran an obituary of the former Fairport star. It was a generous piece which described Swarbrick as "one of the most influential folk musicians of the 1970s and 1980s". But that was not the point.

Mr Swarbrick had just been transferred from intensive care to a normal ward in Walsgrave Hospital in Coventry, after a

four-week battle with a serious chest infection.

His wife, Jill, said yesterday she had been swamped with consolation calls following the publication of the obituary. "The phone has been red hot this morning with all the musicians who know him ringing up to find out how he died and to offer their support," she said.

A spokesman for *The Daily Telegraph* said yesterday: "I have spoken to Mrs Swarbrick this morning and apologised to her, and we will be printing a full apology in Wednesday's paper."

It is understood that the obituary was written after the paper had heard that Mr Swarbrick was seriously ill and then a member of staff said she had heard that he was dead. The report was not checked with the musician's family.

Mr Swarbrick has suffered from the lung disease emphysema for some years, and was in Germany when he was struck by illness.

His Fairport Convention colleague, Dave Pegg, said he was also inundated with calls, and added: "It is a glowing



Dave Swarbrick can, according to his premature obituary, 'electrify an audience with a single frenzied sweep of his violin bow'.

obituary and Dave will be very pleased with what they have said, but it is unbelievable it has been published now."

The most famous obituary error concerned the American writer Mark Twain, who famously described reports of

his death as "much exaggerated". Since then a number of newspapers have made the most feared mistake, including *The Independent* which recently wrongly reported the death of a Serb journalist following reports from Nato.

The mistaken obituary story took a novel twist earlier this month when an Austrian pianist, Friedrich Gulda, faxed a report of his own death to a news agency. Gulda had forbidden any obituaries to be written about him, saying:

"People have thrown so much mud at me while I am alive, I do not want them to chuck it into my grave as well."

But at least Mr Swarbrick now knows that he was thought of as "charismatic and dynamic", and that he could "electrify

an audience with a single frenzied sweep of his bow".

To add to the irony, the unnamed obituarist surmises that "Swarbrick would have been happy to die in harness". Maybe so. But he is much happier to be alive.

£1.5bn windfall plan for AA

MEMBERS OF the Automobile Association, Britain's largest motoring organisation, could be in line for windfall payments of more than £300 because the group is considering strategic options that could end its mutually-owned status.

The AA could be sold to another motoring group in a £1.5bn deal. As the AA is a mutually-owned, non-profit organisation, the proceeds would be distributed to the 4.3 million full members. But the 1.7 million associate members, such as the spouses of members and children under 21 who are named on the membership forms, would not qualify for a payout.

Ford, the US motor giant that paid £1bn for Kwik Fit earlier this month, might be interested in acquiring the AA. But it is thought the AA is a long way from any deal and is merely exploring its options as competition in the roadside breakdown market heats up.

A spokesman said: "The AA has always kept in mind its prime purpose - to serve the best interest of our members. No decisions have been made. It is understandable, following dramatic changes in the breakdown assistance market in the last year, that speculation should arise. But the AA will not comment on speculation." The move follows the

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

RAC decision to sell its motoring services division for £450m. This to Cendant, a US group which owns Green Flag, was blocked by the competition authorities last year.

The RAC now has a shortfall of other buyers which could trigger a £33,000 windfall for the members of its Pall Mall Club, though the ordinary roadside members will miss out.

Any deal to de-mutualise the AA would have to be agreed by a two-thirds majority of its voting members. But the relatively small windfall sum may hamper securing that majority.

The group, which has 48 per cent of the UK breakdown market, was founded in 1905 as a lobbying organisation to battle inaccurate speed traps set by police. It started roadside assistance before the 1914.

The AA employs 12,500 staff including 3,600 patrolmen and recorded a surplus of £21m on sales of £548m last year. All the proceeds were invested back.

The AA owns a huge road map publishing business, and interests in car insurance, and a driving school. But as competition increased from rivals Europ Assistance, Mondial and Direct Line, it has struggled to offer competitive rates.

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THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OU EXPERIENCE



The romance novelist better known as 'Jessica Stirling' - Hugh C Rae: 'I barely have to think about the gender thing now' John Lindsay

Women more at risk from lung cancer

WOMEN SMOKERS are more at risk from lung cancer because they are genetically more susceptible to tobacco carcinogens, according to new research.

BY CHERRY NORTON
Health Correspondent

The findings, published today in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, show women are more likely to contract the main types of lung cancer than men at every level of exposure to cigarette smoke. "This gender difference cannot be explained by differences in baseline exposure, smoking history or body size; it is likely due to women's higher susceptibility to tobacco carcinogens," said the co-author of the study, Dr Stephen Lam, of the University of British Columbia, Canada.

1973 to 13,062 in 1996. There has been a decrease in male victims during the same period, from 29,463 to 22,852.

Previous British research has shown that nearly twice as many women as men under 65 are diagnosed with small-cell lung cancer, the most dangerous form of the disease. Experts believed that the differences between men and women could be explained by women smoking in a different way to men, taking shorter, sharper inhalations or inhaling more deeply because they are more likely to buy "light" cigarettes. However, the new research shows the outer lung cells of women are more susceptible to tobacco carcinogens.

Smoking causes about 120,000 deaths in the UK every year - or one in five of all deaths. The latest government figures show that in 1996 nearly 36,000 people died from lung cancer caused by smoking. The number of women dying this way has more than doubled in the past 23 years, from 6,961 in

men and women who smoke are susceptible to cancer. It is perfectly possible this genetic factor can also explain some of the differences between the sexes. Women's lungs are also smaller, which means they get more particle deposits.

The study of 300 men and women who had been smoking a pack a day for 20 years also found that the traditional way lung cancer is detected, by measuring breathing difficulty, was not suitable for women. The findings showed women developed more cancers in the outer parts of the lung, which does not have such an effect on breathing ability, while men were more likely to develop cancer in the large central airways. Scientists have solved one of the dilemmas in treating prostate cancer: when to operate. Researchers from Stanford University have devised a method of predicting which patients are likely to respond well to surgery and which ones are better off seeking alternative treatments.

Undercover man is up for award

TODAY, THE best-selling author Jessica Stirling could make history by winning the Romantic Novel of the Year award. She - or rather he - hopes to become the first man to win the coveted award.

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN
Scotland Correspondent

The Wind From The Hills is Mr Rae's 21st appearance on the bookstands as Jessica Stirling and contains such sizzling lines as: "He pulled the little buttons from her blouse and,

tearing at the silk, parted her bodice and lifted her shift."

Mr Rae is not the only man writing under a female pseudonym, but the device is more commonly used by male pornographers. Among Mr Rae's contemporaries is Emma Blair, the author of *Flower of Scot-*

land, who is really Iain Blair, another Glaswegian. "His publishers insisted on 'Emma'," said Norma Curtis, secretary of the Romantic Novelists' Association. "They did not even let him, as a Scotsman, use the name Fiona."

"We have one other man on

our committee called Roger but he has to call himself 'Gill Sanderson'. He writes romances for Mills and Boons in the mornings and war comics in the afternoons.

"There is a feeling among readers that if a man has written the novel, there will be a lot of war and deaths. If they saw a bosomy dress on the front cover and a man's name, they wouldn't read it."

Mr Rae denies that he writes as if he were female. "That's not on. I write for women."

Originally a crime writer, Mr Rae, who lives in Killearn, Stirlingshire, moved into romantic fiction in partnership with Peggy Coghlan, a short story writer. However, she retired after seven novels, leaving Jessica to Hugh. He says he has no problem adopting the Jessica persona. "I barely have to think about the gender thing now."

GENDER-BENDING PSEUDONYMS

Iain Blair (right), who writes romantic novels, notably *Flower of Scotland*, under the name Emma Blair.



Dominique Aury double-bluffed everyone with *The Story of O*, a masochistic fantasy, which appeared under the name of Pauline Reage but was assumed to have been by a man.

George Eliot, aka Mary Ann Evans (right), the author of *Middlemarch*.



The Rev Toby Forward, a vicar, who, until rumbled, convinced Virago that he was an Asian woman.

Alexander Trocchi, Scottish-Italian writer from the Beat Age, who wrote erotica in Paris in the Fifties under female pseudonyms.

Emily, Anne and Charlotte Brontë, the literary sisters who called themselves respectively Ellis, Acton and Currer Bell.

'UK has two-speed economy'

THE HEARTLANDS of manufacturing in Britain face a jobs crisis, the Trades Union Congress warns in a report today, with the constituencies of the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer among the hardest hit.

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

The North-east as a whole has seen the biggest increase in claimant unemployment in the past six months. Within the region, the Prime Minister's constituency, Sedgefield, has seen the largest rise, amount-

ing to 6 per cent in the past year. In Scotland, Gordon Brown's seat, Dunfermline East, has suffered the biggest jump in joblessness - a rise of 14 per cent, according to the TUC analysis.

The warning from the unions comes on a day when official figures are expected to show an increase in the jobless total for last month. The total rose by

4,300 to just over 1.3m in February. The regional breakdown of the figures by the TUC shows a manufacturing divide with rising unemployment in the North. Constituencies across the services-dominated south of England have not suffered any increase in unemployment.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, said: "Britain is now a two-speed, two-nation economy. Manufacturing is moving into recession and the service sector continuing to expand."

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THE INDEPENDENT

gle frenzied sweep of his violin bow

an audience with a zed sweep of his bow. To add to the drama, the violinist was wearing a black turtleneck sweater to die a pale. May be so. But he's not to be alive.

5bn windfall for AA

BY NIGEL COLE

The AA's 2000 budget is £1.5bn, a 10 per cent increase on last year. The AA's 2000 budget is £1.5bn, a 10 per cent increase on last year. The AA's 2000 budget is £1.5bn, a 10 per cent increase on last year.

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'Federast' alert as Europhiles seen lurking on Continent

IN THE Commons Robin Cook made another of those surreptitious advances in the Government's continuing game of Grandmother's Footsteps over ground troops. When Grandmother is looking Mr Cook is as immovable as a statue, holding to the resolute yet prudent posture he adopted on the day the first bomb dropped. No change in Nato conditions ("I am now so familiar with them they are etched in my brain like the Lord's Prayer", said Mr Cook, rather grandiosely) and no question of troops fighting their way into Kosovo. On the other hand, he added yesterday, such a statement should not rule out

"putting in troops at a point where there is no organised opposition". But what exactly does "organised opposition" mean and how might matters be affected by Mr Cook's insistence that there's also no question of President Slobodan Milosevic "having a veto" on Nato intentions for Kosovo? Has he moved or hasn't he? Grandmother can't quite be sure - all she knows is that he looks a lot closer every time she turns round.

Understandably, perhaps, Michael Howard, the Tory spokesman on foreign affairs, was still asking for "clarity" from the Foreign Secretary but his back-benchers had decided to take a day off from scepticism about the war and indulge themselves in that most delicious of Tory recreations, Eurobashing. There were several questions about the reform of the European Commission and more than one of them settled on Romano Prodi as a very satisfactory new whipping boy. Julian Lewis was anxious that Eastern European countries that had only recently escaped the heavy grip of the Warsaw Pact would be lured into immediately surrendering their new liberties to another monolithic power bloc - that the Iron Curtain would fall only for the Red Tape Rampart to rise

THE SKETCH



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

up. John Bercow put it in even bolder terms. Why couldn't the Government admit what is openly acknowledged in Europe, he de-

manded, before going on to out Mr Prodi as a "committed federast". Mr Prodi, it seems, has been siding up to naive young democracies, offering them sweets and computer games if they will just go round to his place and let him remove their sovereignties.

In the Lords, hereditary peers opened the first day of three days of debate on the House of Lords Bill with an eleven-hour conversion to the popular will. Only last week their noble Lordships demonstrated the true value of the hereditary principle by endorsing the incredible notion that the sexual desires of 16-year-olds are in some way susceptible to parliamentary legisla-

tion. Yesterday they confirmed their detachment from anything recognisable as the real world with a communal fantasy that their abolition was causing waves of unrest among the common folk. "The people don't want it," said Lord Strathclyde, and his wishful theme was taken up by Lord Campbell of Alloway, supporting an amendment that would call for a referendum on the Government's proposals. "The people don't want to put to sea in a sieve with any old owl or pussycat," argued Lord Campbell - in one of the more lucid passages from a frankly baffling speech - and he concluded that the Government would press through its legislation against "the wishes of the people". But what people could he conceivably be talking about? Was he, perhaps, using the phrase as a public schoolboy of the Thirties might say "my people", to refer to his immediate family? Or did he have in mind the staff and beaters at his country house? Anybody, surely, but the people talked to by Mori not so long ago, 80 per cent of whom indicated their satisfaction at the imminent demise of the hereditary principle. It really is time to wake up and smell the Earl Grey, your Lordships.

Hague strikes out for caring Conservatism

WILLIAM HAGUE broke with the Thatcher era last night by declaring that the Conservative Party had to offer more than "free-market solutions". Mr Hague gave his full support to his deputy Peter Lilley's controversial call for the party to win back the public's confidence by accepting that the free market had only a limited role to play in improving health, education and welfare.

Mr Lilley's attempt to define a new "caring Conservatism", made in a separate speech last night, has angered some Shadow Cabinet colleagues. They complain they were not consulted about the apparent U-turn, and that the shift has put the leadership at odds with Ann Widdecombe, the health spokeswoman, and Iain Duncan Smith, the social security spokesman, who have both raised the prospect of greater private-sector provision.

At a dinner to mark the 20th anniversary of Baroness Thatcher's election as prime minister, Mr Hague said: "It is a great mistake to think that all Conservatives have to offer is solutions based on free mar-

POLICY
By ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

kets." The Tory leader called for a new approach which applied the party's enduring values to the public sector. "We can offer a real transfer of power away from Whitehall to schools and hospitals, patients and parents," he said.

He told Lady Thatcher that when she declared the National Health Service was "safe in our hands," she was attacked by critics who did not believe her. "Today we are being attacked by critics because they do believe us," he said.

Tory sources insisted Mr Hague was not abandoning Lady Thatcher's legacy, saying what she did for Britain in the Eighties was right, but events had moved on. They denied a U-turn on public services, saying Mr Hague was merely trying to kill off the "damaging and wrong perception that the Tories would sell off the hospitals".

In her speech at the dinner in London, Lady Thatcher defended the "transformation" of Britain during her 11 years as

prime minister. Jokingly playing down the idea that she was responsible, she said: "All that we did was to create the right framework: it was the British people who did the rest."

Lady Thatcher also paid a rare tribute to Sir Edward Heath, her predecessor as Tory leader, with whom she has barely spoken since she ousted him in 1975. She described him as "one of Britain's most forceful and effective prime ministers".

Meanwhile, Lady Thatcher attacked the Blair government's "third-way" philosophy but without criticising Tony Blair personally. She said that Britain ought to be doing "much better" given Labour's economic inheritance.

"Raising £40bn of extra taxation by stealth, as Gordon Brown is planning, is evidence that behind the New Labour mask, Old Socialism smirks," she said.

William Hague last night committed the Tories to leading "the national campaign to save the pound" at the next general election. He insisted that a single European currency was not inevitable.



The Rev Ian Paisley launching his campaign for the Euro elections in Bushmills, Co Antrim, yesterday. *Paul Faith*

£5m to be used to allay fears

MILLENNIUM BUG
By PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

A £5m ADVERTISING campaign is to be launched by the Government to warn the public of the dangers of the so-called millennium bug, Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the Commons, announced yesterday.

The publicity drive, featuring TV and press advertising, will begin in the late spring to spearhead efforts to reassure people about the impact of the date change on computer systems.

Mrs Beckett, who has responsibility for co-ordinating Whitehall's response to the 2000 compliance problem, said the public should look principally to private firms for advice on the effect of the bug.

However, she stressed no one needed to hoard banknotes as the Government had been assured by banks and building societies that all cash machines will be functioning properly.

The information campaign will be backed up by market research to track changes in public perception of the problem every month.

The Government's official "bug busters", Action 2000, published practical advice last October about the impact of the bug on home appliances.

Anti-bombing MPs are appeasers, says Short

CLARE SHORT dismayed fellow ministers yesterday when she compared Labour MPs opposed to the Nato bombing of Serbia to appeasers of Hitler and Nazi Germany.

Downing Street last night disowned her views, saying: "The difference between this country and Serbia is that in this country, people can express their views."

Ms Short, Secretary of State for International Development, said she was ashamed of some Labour MPs who had voiced dissent in the debate in the Commons. She had shouted: "You are a disgrace to the Labour Party" at Tam Dalyell, the veteran Labour back-

APPEASERS ROW
By COLIN BROWN AND SARAH SCHAEFER

bencher, when he and a handful of the dissidents forced a vote.

Yesterday morning, after the vote by 11 Labour MPs against the Government, her anger had clearly not subsided. She said on BBC Radio Four's *Woman's Hour*: "It's always legitimate to voice dissent but this conflict and the arguments over it made many of us think about the Nazis and Hitler."

"There were people who thought Hitler was a good thing, there were people who opposed action being taken

against Hitler, and I am ashamed that there are some members of the Labour Party who are saying outrageous things, defending what Serbia is doing."

"They are the equivalent of the people who appeased Hitler. I am sorry - this is a very serious thing to say but that is what I think. They're entitled to say it but I'm entitled to be ashamed of them."

Ms Short, a member of the so-called "Super Club" that opposed the Gulf War, has often courted controversy, upsetting the people of volcano-hit Montserrat by remarks about "golden elephants", and comparing extremist Orangemen to the

Ku-Klux-Klan. She has been a leading voice against the Left over the Kosovo war, impressing Downing Street with her visit to Macedonian refugee camps.

The Labour MP Gwyneth Dunwoody, who voiced doubts but did not vote against the Government, told BBC Radio: "One of Clare's endearing qualities is her ability to go over the top because she's got this enormous enthusiasm for life and this great vigour that she occasionally gets carried away with."

Another Labour MP Alice Mahon, complained to reporters of "silly things" said about her being an appeaser.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Pledge on piercing
LEGISLATION TO give councils the power to regulate body piercing firms will be introduced as soon as possible, the Home Office minister Paul Boateng promised.

£41,000 logo

A LOGO to promote the launch of plans to modernise government and give a better service to the public cost £41,020 to develop, the Cabinet Office minister Peter Kilfoyle disclosed.

Role for Hurd

LORD HURD of Westwell, the former Tory foreign secretary, has been appointed to the Political Honours Scrutiny Committee by Tony Blair, joining Lord Thomson of Monifieth and Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fyfe.

Tories urged not to wreck Lords reform

CONSERVATIVE PEERS were urged by their own benches not to delay proposals to scrap hereditary voting rights yesterday as growing divisions over their tactics emerged.

Viscount Cranborne said any efforts to wreck the House of Lords Bill would be against the Salisbury Convention under which peers do not vote against the governing party's manifesto pledges.

He hinted that any Tory revolts would also diminish chances to adopt the so-called Weatherill amendment, which would retain 92 hereditaries during the interim period of reform.

Speaking during the Bill's committee stage, Lord Cranborne, one of the deal's architects, said: "If you pass an amendment which would in effect wreck this Bill, it would send very clearly a pattern for the remainder of this debate, which will make it increasingly

HEREDITARY PEERS
By SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

difficult to amend the Bill in other ways."

But Lord Campbell of Alloway, a Tory peer, insisted the Government should delay the legislation unless it won the support of the public in a referendum.

Earlier, Lord Strathclyde, the Tory leader of the Lords, indicated he could not rule out a legal challenge to the Bill from hereditary peers, doubting the strength of support by peers for the Weatherill amendment, which is to be debated next week.

"Some peers think there may be a bribe in it and don't want to be involved."

He continued: "Others think the Bill is monstrous and the only thing to do is to kill it stone dead and, if that means going to the Parliament Act, so be it."

THE HOUSE



Fuel escalator

THE TORIES are committed to abandoning the "fuel escalator", which automatically increases the cost of fuel in every Budget, David Heathcoat-Amory, the Tory Treasury spokesman, said. The measure was introduced in 1995 to reduce pollution.

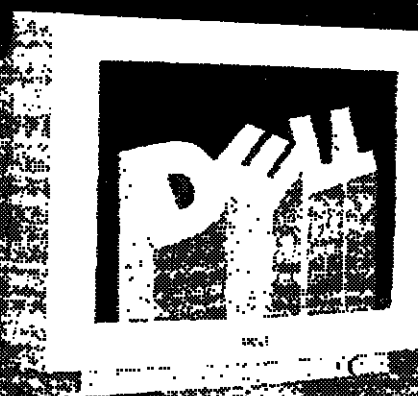
Tax access

TAXPAYERS SHOULD be given better access to information about how much they pay to the Treasury, Tim Loughton, the Tory MP for Worthing East and Shoreham, said.

Today's agenda

Commons, 9.30am. Backbench debates. 2.30pm: Questions to Cabinet Office Minister Prime Minister's questions.

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England must be separate, says SNP

THE LEADER of the Scottish National Party, Alex Salmond, calls for the break-up of the United Kingdom today, suggesting that England should become an independent nation with its own parliament.

BY PAUL WAUGH AND FRAN ABRAMS

Mr Salmond, who has until now played down the independence issue in the Scottish Parliament campaign, said separate parliaments north and south of the border were "the only logical path" for both countries. By implication, Wales would also become a sovereign state and the United Kingdom would no longer exist.

Five parties, including the Greens, signed up in February to a voluntary code, which will be used as a test-run for rules due to be implemented before the next general election. They promised to declare national donations of more than £5,000 and local donations of more than £1,000, as well as to bar foreign and anonymous donations.

After days of concentrating on tax and health spending, Mr Salmond finally put the state of the Union firmly on the agenda with his claim that English independence was "best for England" as well as the Scots.

But although some parties told *The Independent* they had received non-cash support such as the loan of vehicles, office space and staff, none had passed the information to the commission. Full disclosure could cause problems for the parties because for the first time they are bound by a £1.5m national limit on spending.

With Scottish independence, England would lose a surly lodger and gain a good neighbour. With Scottish devolution, the UK and England gain a problem, confirming my belief that independence for England is the only logical path... because it is best for England if England takes control and responsibility for its own affairs," he said.

So far, Labour has declared £166,000 in donations to its Scottish headquarters since January, £100,000 of which came from the Scottish Trade Union and Labour Party liaison committee. It has not declared any support from its London Millbank offices, although staff have been seconded to help.

The SNP has long observed a self-imposed rule of refusing to vote on solely English matters in the Commons and a similar edict should apply to all parties, Mr Salmond said.

The Conservatives have declared £306,600, including £37,500 from headquarters in London; the Liberal Democrats £118,100 including £108,100 from London; and the SNP £130,600, including £15,300 from the actor Sean Connery. The Greens declared just one £10,000 gift.

The independence issue moved centre stage as it emerged that the parties have been warned that they must declare all financial help they receive, including gifts and

donations in kind. Professor Anthony King, chairman of an electoral commission set up to oversee the election, has written to the parties, reminding them of their obligation to be open about funding.

Donations direct to constituencies amounted to £8,375 for Labour, £12,300 for the SNP and £13,800 for the Tories.



Heather Harrison (left) has not yet decided how to vote; Helen Worthington expects to support 'whoever offers the best deal' Rob Stratton



'Assembly could be an awful failure'

VOTERS' PANEL: LLANDOVERY

David Butler, 35, Salesman.
"What are the Assembly's priorities? In rural Wales farming is top. I hope the Assembly can make a better job of handling the BSE crisis than the last two governments did."

WITH JUST 15 days to polling day, enthusiasm has yet to break cover in Llandovery. The talk in this mid-Wales market town is more about rugby successes than the historic elections to the Welsh Assembly.

and because of this Mr Michael's opponents in the Labour Party have been out on the streets of Llandovery seeking to maximise the Labour vote.

Heather Harrison, 56, Tourist officer.
"I'm not Welsh but everyone who lives in Wales should vote; I hope they will. I haven't made up my mind how to vote - I'll look at what's on offer."

A close fight between Labour and Plaid Cymru is looming. A big Labour win would, paradoxically, undermine the chances of Alun Michael - Tony Blair's choice for First Minister - sliding in on the list from which 20 of the 60 Assembly members will be drawn.

Llandovery is one of the few towns in the Carmarthen East and Dinefwr constituency. It is less than 90 minutes' drive from Cardiff, but has seen little of the government money that has been lavished on the M4 corridor and along the North Wales coast.

Helen Worthington, 40, Craft-centre supervisor. Plaid Cymru
"I expect to support whoever offers the best deal for the economy of rural areas like ours. In years gone by, most cash and attention has been directed to the big towns in South Wales and the industrial North-east."

A Plaid Cymru victory in the constituency would ensure his success from the "top-up" list.

the burdens placed on business. In fact I'd like to see 90 per cent less government. But the Assembly looks like another tier."

Barrie Stone, 61, Estate agent.
"I'm all in favour of politicians who want to free up the markets and lift

Simon Sherrard, 59, Hotel owner. Conservative
"It's jobs for the boys. Half the Welsh people didn't vote at all in the 1997 referendum. I voted 'no' but even so I will vote next month. I think it's a bad thing to have the same party in office in London and Cardiff."

Josephine Lewis, 34, Wife of Huw Lewis. Labour-leaning
"I'm concerned that our sons get a good education. There's a split between English and Welsh language schools and... children are divided up. That's one thing the Assembly should look at closely."

Janusz Norejko, 48, Farmer. Will not vote
"There's not enough information coming out to tell people what the Assembly can do. The rural

Cynthia Davies, 70, Wife of Roland Davies. Undecided
"All the politicians say that they are anxious to foster the Welsh language and culture. That is a very important part of devolution and it must have priority."

Billy Jones, 43, DIY shop owner. Undecided
"I think we were better off before the Assembly came along. As far as I am concerned it doesn't seem to offer very much - judging by what little information there is about it. I dare say I'll vote."

economy is in deep trouble. I think it [The Assembly] could be a waste of time."

Huw Lewis, 35, Builder. Labour-leaning
"It seems like another world when you live in rural Wales, even though Cardiff isn't really that far away. If voters turn out strongly enough maybe the Assembly will pay attention to our problems."

Josephine Lewis, 34, Wife of Huw Lewis. Labour-leaning
"I'm concerned that our sons get a good education. There's a split between English and Welsh language schools and... children are divided up. That's one thing the Assembly should look at closely."

Billy Jones, 43, DIY shop owner. Undecided
"I think we were better off before the Assembly came along. As far as I am concerned it doesn't seem to offer very much - judging by what little information there is about it. I dare say I'll vote."



CAMPAIGNS BRIEFING

15 DAYS TO GO

Lib Dems 'soft on drugs'
LIBERAL DEMOCRATS walked into the familiar charge of being "soft on drugs" after the Scottish party leader, Jim Wallace, said he supported the idea of a Royal Commission to look at all aspects of drug abuse, including the likely effect of decriminalisation of cannabis. David McLetchie, leader of the Scottish Conservatives, said it was typical of the "soft" Liberal Democrat approach. "Raising this issue at this stage is disastrous and divisive," he said.

Unions back tax rise
THE HOLYROOD Parliament should be prepared to use its tax-raising powers to boost public services, the Scottish Trades Union Congress agreed, contrary to Labour's pledge not to raise taxes in the first four-year term. Labour would spend an extra £10m on cancer centres in Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Inverness and Edinburgh, said the party's health spokesman, Sam Galbraith.

Stand and deliver
THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS yesterday floated the novel idea that ministers in the Welsh administration should receive "promise-related pay". Michael German, the party's Welsh leader, said ministerial earnings should be tied to the degree to which they met their pledges. The Tories responded that, on this basis, Mr German would be "poverty stricken".

Call for news watchdog
A BROADCASTING watchdog to monitor the coverage of Scottish news was called for by Canon Kenyon Wright, a veteran home rule advocate and one of the few independent candidates in with a chance of winning a seat at Holyrood.

Quote of the day
"IF IT [independence] was measured in purely money terms you might as well hand the prize to Alex Salmond." The Scottish Conservative leader David McLetchie, hastily adding he was still strongly opposed to independence.

Plaid Cymru gains from Labour in key rural battlefield

PLAID CYMRU, the Welsh nationalist party, looks set to profit at the expense of Labour in the critical Mid and West Wales battleground, according to an opinion poll last night.

BY TONY HEATH AND BARRIE CLEMENT

Support for the nationalists in the largely rural area, which covers eight Westminster constituencies, is said to have

increased from 20 per cent at the 1997 general election to 31 per cent. Labour support fell from 38 to 36 per cent, with the Tories' share falling from 20 to 16 per cent. The Liberal Democrats' share rose from 12 to 15 per cent.

These figures in an NOP poll for ITV refer to voting intentions for first-past-the-post candidates. When respondents were asked how they would use their second vote on the parties' proportional representation (PR) lists, Plaid Cymru remained steady at 31 per cent, with Labour on 32 per cent, the Tories

on 15 per cent and the Liberal Democrats on 17 per cent.

The figures suggest the nationalists may take the marginal Carmarthen East seat from Labour, allowing Alun Michael, Secretary of State for Wales, to be elected from the "top-up" PR list. If Labour retains the seat, his chances will disappear.

The 1,500 people polled were also asked to name the party leader they believed would be the most effective "prime minister". Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru leader, was top with 48 per cent. Alun Michael scored 32 per cent, Rod Richards (Tory) 14 and Mike German (Liberal Democrats) 6.

But while there was encouraging poll news for Plaid Cymru, internal divisions over independence led to the establishment of a new grouping of independent nationalists. Two members of Gwynedd County Council, who want Wales to go it alone, have formed a new hardline alliance

and have been returned unopposed. Owain Williams and Evan Hall Griffith believe that a number of colleagues in North Wales will join them. They say there is considerable disaffection with the assertion by Mr Wigley that his organisation had "never, ever" supported independence.

However, Mr Wigley said last night that in the Fifties, Plaid Cymru argued that Wales should become part of a "Britannic confederation", but now it was arguing for the country to be part of a United States of Europe, which he believed would be established within the next four years or so.

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ID chips for pets to fight cruelty

EVERY DOG in Britain could be fitted with an identity microchip under a proposal from the RSPCA being considered by the Government.

The Government's response has been "reasonably positive", the society said yesterday, when it released its annual figures on animal cruelty, showing a 17.5 per cent rise in convictions in 1998 from 1997.

The RSPCA believes the remarkable increase is more due to a rise in public awareness gained from programmes such as Rolf Harris's *Animal Hospital*, than an absolute increase in cruelty, but it still highlighted large numbers of what it called "barbaric and degrading" cases of animals being ill-treated.

Yesterday the society called for the microchipping of all animals where suitable, a move it believes would greatly diminish cases of cruelty and neglect as the silicon chips, which are the size of a cooked grain of rice and can be harmlessly inserted under the skin, would enable owners to be traced without fail. The chips can be fitted to virtually all animals "from a mouse to a camel", as well as to reptiles and birds, the charity's communications director, John Rolis, said.

In some of the worst cases the RSPCA highlighted yesterday, including that of a dog hung from a railway bridge, the owners had not been traced.

At the moment there is a purely voluntary scheme under which pets microchipped by a vet for a fee of about £20 are registered on PetLog, a database run jointly by the RSPCA and the Kennel Club. Take-up has so far been modest, covering about 470,000 of Britain's 6.9 million dogs and 270,000 of eight million cats.

"To have every pet microchipped would be the ideal situation," said Tony Crittenden, the RSPCA's chief inspector.

Government sources confirmed yesterday that talks are taking place with several interested bodies about "the permanent identification of dogs", by microchipping or tattooing. "The key question is whether or not it should be compulsory," a source said. "The Government has no fixed views." A working group on the issue, chaired by the Environment minister Alan Meale, will have its first meeting in a month's time.

Last year, the RSPCA said, there were 3,114 convictions for animal cruelty in England and Wales, 17.5 per cent up on the 1997 figure of 2,650. Prison sentences were imposed on 73 people. The society received 1,558,131 telephone calls - one every 20 seconds - 11 per cent up from the 1,397,516 calls it received the year before. "The increases are partly due to the fact that we have more inspectors than ever before, but we also think programmes like *Animal Hospital* make the public more aware of our work, and more likely than ever to report cruelty to us," Mr Crittenden said.

The North-east headed the regional animal cruelty table for the fifth year running, with 798 convictions last year, far more than any other region. Also noticeable in the new statistics was a large jump in cruelty to farm animals; there were 191 cases of cruelty to cattle last year as against 44 in 1997; 448 cases of cruelty to sheep, against 150; and 210 cases of cruelty to pigs, up from 39. "These figures must in some way reflect the current farming crisis, although we believe that 99 per cent of farmers are very concerned with their animals' welfare," Mr Crittenden said.

Cases of abuse included a South American iguana suffering from multiple abscesses and mite infestation abandoned among a flock of sheep in Somerset; three greyhound puppies who nearly starved to death and only survived by eating the bodies of their dead siblings; a cat scalded and given multiple fractures from kicking by its owner, who was later sent to jail; a flock of sheep found dead and dying as their farmer owner celebrated his wedding day; and the dog hung from a bridge in the Leicestershire town of Loughborough.

Leading article, Review, page 3



Sylvester, the abandoned iguana who was found by the RSPCA suffering from mite infestation and multiple abscesses Andrew Buurman

Man in court on 14 sex charges

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

A FORMER fairground worker was remanded in custody when he appeared in court yesterday to face 14 charges of sexual assaults on adults and children.

Sidney Cooke, 72, appeared before a judge at Reading Crown Court on charges including rape and indecent assault, alleged to have taken place between 1972 and 1981.

Neil Moore, for the prosecution, told the court: "This case concerns allegations of a sexual nature ... principally upon four children. There were eight complainants in all. (The offences) started in London and moved to Twyford in Berkshire, and finally the north-east of England. Indecent assaults were on males and females."

Mr Cooke is charged with indecently assaulting a minor on three separate occasions between 1972 and 1976 in Battersea, London; Twyford, Berkshire; and Canterbury, Kent. He is also charged with assaulting the same boy in Washington, Tyne and Wear, between 1978 and 1980.

He is further charged with a serious sexual assault on another minor on two occasions between 1972 and 1976 in Battersea and Twyford. He faces a further charge of indecently assaulting that boy in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, between 1976 and 1977, and with raping an 18-year-old girl on separate occasions in Canterbury in 1976, and in Berkhamsted between 1976 and 1977.

Mr Cooke is facing another five charges of serious sexual assault, alleged to have taken place between 1972 and 1981.

Patricia Lees, appearing for the defence, told Mr Justice Bell that the court was not in a position to arraign Mr Cooke as further legal discussions were essential before the case could continue.

He was remanded to a date to be fixed, when an application to move the hearing from Reading Crown Court to another venue will be heard.

Lioness saved from death row



Lioness Jody faced death because of infection fears

JODY THE lioness thought to have contracted FSE, the feline form of mad cow disease, has been reprieved from death row at Edinburgh Zoo.

The management change of heart followed a vigorous campaign to save one of the zoo's star attractions.

The decision may save big cats thought to be infected with the deadly disease in other zoos and safari parks. The breakthrough came as animal rights campaigners began a 24-hour vigil yesterday outside the zoo. Officials announced that plans to administer a lethal injection to the eight-year-old African lioness had been scrapped.

They had feared that Jody had been infected by her 12-year-old partner Lumpy. His post-mortem examination last December revealed traces of FSE, Feline Spongiform Encephalopathy.

Zoo officials were worried that Jody could be a risk to healthy lions, so they confined her to her own enclosure.

They had argued that long-term isolation for lions, who prefer to be in groups, was cruel and so it would be kinder to end Jody's life. But campaigners from Advocates for Animals had claimed that the zoo was trying to find space for three Asiatic lions due to arrive at the zoo this summer.

The public protest, supported by, among others, the broadcaster Jimmy Savile and the anthropologist Desmond Morris, appears to have led to a compromise.

A zoo spokeswoman said the decision to reprieve Jody followed advice from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that there was no proven danger of Jody transmitting FSE to other lions.

"This is brilliant news," said the spokeswoman, adding: "We can now look for a home for Jody in another collection, where she can be with other lions without presenting a danger to them."

BY JACK O'SULLIVAN
Scotland Correspondent

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BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

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MPs have been reluctant to attack the chief inspector after a series of allegations about his private life, but 16 have now signed an early day motion demanding Mr Woodhead's immediate resignation.

Mr Foster argued that the allegations, which stem from an affair Mr Woodhead had with a young woman, meant the chief inspector was no longer able to do his job effectively.

His remarks show that ministers' efforts to put an end to the debate about Mr Woodhead's future have failed. David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, tried to draw a line under the controversy last week when he said in a written parliamentary answer that there was no evidence Mr Woodhead started the affair with Amanda Johnston while she was still a sixth-form pupil at the school where he taught.

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TV news to reflect devolution

THE BBC unveiled a new-style *Six O'Clock News* yesterday that is intended to deal with the separate news agendas of post-devolution Britain.

The new bulletin, which will be launched on 10 May and hosted by Huw Edwards, a Welshman, will have separate headlines for Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales at the start of the programme, and will have regional "op-outs" from around the country at 6.15pm.

The changes are intended to deal with news from the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh and Northern Ireland assemblies. At 6.30pm, Mr Edwards will hand over to the regional news

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

rooms around England and the three Celtic nations, who will return to the London studio at 6.35pm for a summary of the national headlines before the end of the programme.

"There has been a metropolitan bias in news coverage in the past," said Mark Popescu, editor of the new *Six O'Clock News*, yesterday. "And now there are new institutions which we have to take account of. We have to be much more sensitive about the way different stories will play in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales."

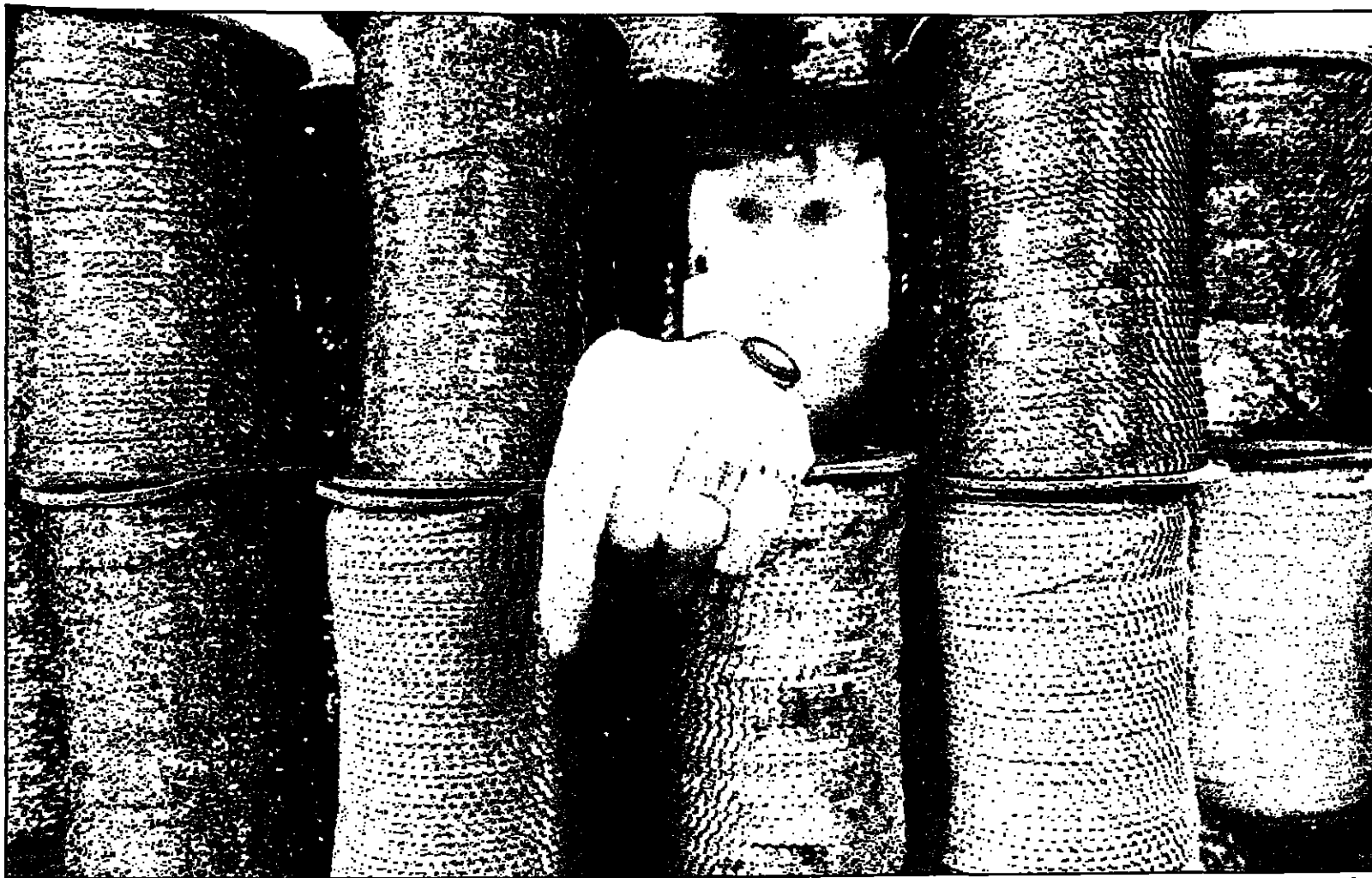
There was outrage in Scotland late last year when the BBC's board of governors decided not to give the country its own separate national and international news bulletin at six o'clock.

The changes are also intended to bring in younger viewers and to make the programme more accessible. It will have its own dedicated staff of reporters so that they become familiar to viewers, and the news agenda is to be adapted to take on more consumer stories.

The new-style news will also carry a sports round-up presented by Helen Rollason, the BBC presenter who has been fighting cancer, and for the first time the *Six O'clock News* will have its own weather forecaster in the studio.

The "virtual" blue set, which has been in use for six years, is to be scrapped for a set that will be "warmer and more inclusive", said Mr Popescu, but the colours and designs are being kept under wraps until the programme's new look has been finalised.

He added: "Research has told us that viewers rate us for trust and authority, but we need to become more relevant, inclusive and warm. But [that] doesn't mean we will dilute the journalism and professionalism of the BBC."



A worker at Brody International in London, Britain's only sequin maker, which warns of a shortage of glitter for millennium festivities. The family business, which includes Armani among its customers, says it will work round the clock to cope with demand. **Andrew Buurman**

British teens are 'Europe's delinquents'

BY CHERRY NORTON
Social Affairs Correspondent

TEENAGERS FROM the British Isles take themselves less seriously than those in the rest of Europe, according to research. A study of children from five big cities found that those from Newcastle and Dublin were the most likely to use cannabis, shoplift, fight in the street and vandalise buildings.

"Teenagers from different cities seem to have quite different outlooks on life. Those in Continental Europe take themselves and their futures far more seriously," said Aoife Brinkley, of the psychology department at Trinity College, London. She presents her findings today at a meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

The research involved nearly 3,500 children, aged 14 and 15, from Bremen in Germany, Groningen in the Netherlands, Rome, Dublin and Newcastle. "Substance misuse and delinquent behaviour were highest in Dublin and Newcastle, where the policies promote 'abstinence is good'. In the Netherlands, where cannabis is decriminalised and the policy is much more one of teaching children about different drugs from an early age, less children had tried [drugs]," Ms Brinkley said.

The teenagers were asked about smoking, drinking and drug-taking as well as their attitudes to substance use and how they spent their free time.

One in 10 surveyed had tried cannabis and one in 10 had smoked it in the previous four weeks. But in Newcastle and Dublin, the number smoking cannabis was one in seven. Teenagers in Groningen and Rome were the least likely to have tried cannabis, with less than one in 20 saying they had smoked it in the previous four weeks. The findings showed that boys smoked cannabis at a younger age than girls. A third of the male users and a fifth of the female users had tried it by the time they were aged 12.

Teenagers in Newcastle and Dublin were also more likely to have tried "harder" drugs. In

Newcastle, 7 per cent had taken amphetamines, 6 per cent had sniffed glue and 5 per cent had tried "magic mushrooms".

Children from Newcastle and Dublin were also found to be more aggressive and showed more signs of delinquent behaviour. Nearly 50 per cent of those in Dublin had fought in public and 33 per cent in Newcastle, compared with 11 per cent in Rome and 25 per cent in Groningen. They were also more likely to write graffiti - over 50 per cent in Dublin and over 33 per cent in Newcastle, compared with less than 25 per cent in the continental cities.

Traditionally, the rate of substance use among boys is double that among girls but the findings of this survey showed there was no difference between the sexes, although boys started at a younger age.

The researchers believe the differences in attitudes and use of drugs should be taken into account when designing policies and strategies to curb drug abuse.

"The importance of effective prevention strategies in reducing the demand for psycho-active substances is recognised and acknowledged in all states of Europe," Ms Brinkley said. "It does seem that in countries where they accept children are going to use drugs and focus on teaching them not to misuse them, teenagers are less likely to do so."

Women lifers serve longer than men

WOMEN GIVEN life sentences spend on average two years longer in jail than male lifers despite evidence that they are less likely to re-offend, campaigners said yesterday.

A report published by the Howard League for Penal Reform states that in addition to longer sentences, women lifers have to cope with additional stress caused by fears about their fertility and guilt over their inability to care for children and relatives.

The report criticises the Prison Service for offering women inmates gender-stereotyped training in courses such as needlework and hairdressing. It also deplores the fact that many women prisoners rely on second-hand clothing and underwear.

Recent figures published by the Home Office showed the number of women jailed for life has risen by 85 per cent in a decade to 137 in 1997.

In common with many male lifers, women are serving well over the length of time set as their "tariff" by the Home Secretary, the report found. Figures for 1997 showed that women lifers served 18.7 years in custody on average before being released on licence, compared with an average tariff of 12 years. Men served an average of 14.3 years before release.

The report said the length of time served above their tariff was "particularly cruel" as

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

women, many of whom are sentenced for "domestic" murders, had such a low reconviction rate. None of the 52 women lifers freed since 1981 has been reconvicted of a serious offence. In contrast, 5 per cent of male lifers freed between 1989 and 1993 have been reconvicted of a serious offence.

The report said there was little training on offer to women lifers to help them to cope with life outside prison.

Although inmates were allowed to wear their own clothes, many had so little money they had to rely on hand-outs from charity, even to the extent of wearing second hand underwear, which did little to boost their self-esteem.

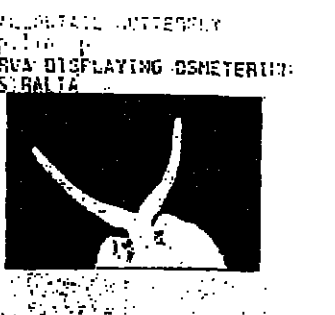
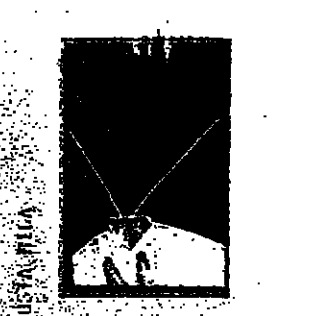
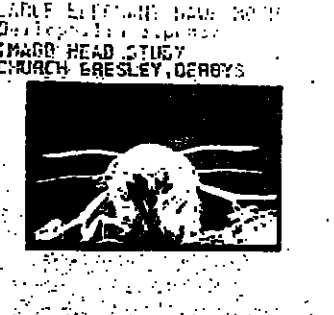
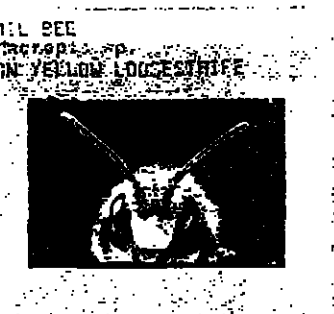
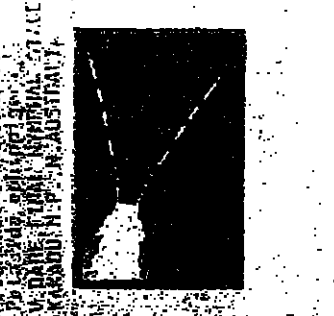
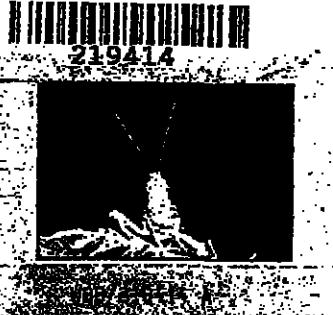
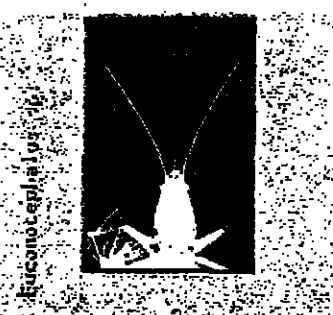
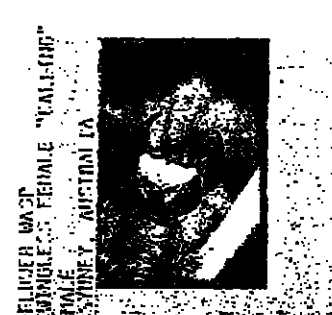
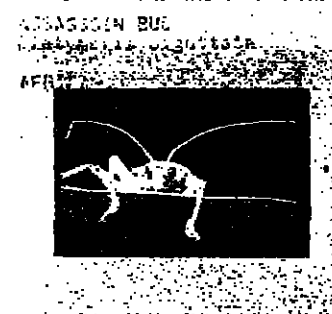
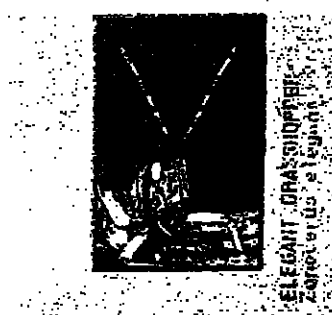
The Prison Service said it was already considering the issue of prisoners serving longer than the period of their tariff after the problem was highlighted in a recent joint report by the prison and probation service inspectors. However, issues such as length of tariff set and the imposition of mandatory sentences were a matter for the Home Office.

A spokesman said the Prison Service had recognised female inmates had different needs by establishing, more than a year ago, the Women's Policy Group to address their requirements across the service.

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Firemen in the Florida Everglades tackling a brush blaze that has burnt 100,000 acres and shut the main east-west highway Reuters

Killer faces chair saying jailer gave him drugs

THE CRIMES committed by Arthur Jenkins were, by any measure, heinous. On an October day in 1990, he and a younger brother killed an uncle and a family friend with gun shots to the head. Jenkins, in a demonic rage, also furiously stabbed the uncle in the stomach with a kitchen knife. He all but disembowelled him.

It is no surprise, therefore, that Jenkins' appointment with the executioner at the Greenville Correctional Center in Virginia at 9 o'clock last night has aroused little public interest. Barring a last-minute intervention by the Governor, James Gilmore, Jenkins will be dead by this morning.

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

Even as the death chamber was prepared, a more complicated story emerged, however. Jenkins, 30, had an IQ of only 65. Indeed, the case was so complicated, to no avail - the US Supreme Court rejected appeals for clemency - for his sentence to be commuted on the ground of mental incompetence. Moreover, Jenkins was on a cocktail of antipsychotic drugs for most of his life.

And his life was one of unremitting hardship. He had a childhood of abuse at the hands of his own family, physical and sexual. According to Deirdre

Enright, a Virginia lawyer who emerged as the leading champion for clemency in the case, he was barely aware of the depth of his plight even at the end. When Jenkins committed murder he had, only 30 days earlier, been released from the state's Washington County Jail, where he had served part of a four-year sentence for burglary. He had returned to the town of Front Royal, Virginia, and the home of his aunt, Elizabeth Morris and her husband, Floyd Jenkins.

After a night of drinking, Jenkins and his younger brother, Kevin Frame, entered the home and committed the double murder. At his trial, Jen-

kins said he was driven to his savage attack on Floyd because he had been sexually abused by him in childhood. The other victim was Lee Brinklow.

A year after the trial, however, Ms Enright stumbled on troubling information regarding Jenkins' time at the Washington prison. She was responding to allegations by the FBI against the former warden of the prison, Robert Clendenen.

Interviews she conducted with Jenkins told a startling tale: he alleged that Mr Clendenen had offered him drugs and alcohol in exchange for sex with him - charges that Mr Clendenen, now out of the system,

has denied. Worse, Jenkins said the warden had allowed him to stop taking his antipsychotic medications. The implication, according to Ms Enright, is that the state was a catalyst in the tragedy in Front Royal. In other words, she told *The Washington Post* in an interview, the state was partly responsible for his rampage.

There was no sign last night that Governor Gilmore was being swayed by Ms Enright's entreaties, however, and death seemed certain for Jenkins. "The idea that he determined any part of his life is ludicrous," she told the *Post*. "Before he knew what was going on, other people had ruined him."

Mighty dollar drives out artists and poets

AMERICAN TIMES
NORTH BEACH, SAN FRANCISCO

WHEN JOE DI MAGGIO first started knocking about with a bat and baseball in San Francisco's North Beach back in the 1920s, the neighbourhood was a slightly fusty little Italy filled with old men in faded felt hats and corner cafés serving the only decent coffee in town.

There was nothing fashionable about it, stuck as it was in a hollow between the grand homes on top of Russian Hill to the west and Telegraph Hill to the east. Fisherman's Wharf, just to the north, still lived up to its name back then, and the smell of rotting fish bones wafted over North Beach with the prevailing wind off the bay.

Hard to imagine, perhaps, that the area would now be among the trendiest and most sought-after in San Francisco, or that some of the older residents would be grieving for the authentic flavour of North Beach's glorious past. Then again, much can happen in the long lifespan of a Joe Di Maggio. These days, North Beach is best known as the spiritual home of the Beat poets, the place where Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg and the rest settled, stayed up late and experimented with drugs in the 1950s.

Pick your way around the neighbourhood selectively, and it still looks a bit like an artists' colony. The City Lights bookstore, the Mecca of the Beat Generation, is still there, as is its founder, the poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

The area is still dotted with Italian cafés and restaurants, even if the faded felt hats, and the old men from Genoa and Trieste who wore them, are long gone. But North Beach, rather like the St Germain-des-Prés in Paris, has become a curious sort of shrine to its old self, precious to the point of self-parody; a magnet for tourists and new residents who fancy themselves to be treading hallowed turf, but who discover that in truth the ground has long since been desecrated. The dilapidated houses have been done up,



Coit Tower on Telegraph Hill, San Francisco

and real estate prices have shot through the roof.

All the truly impoverished artists packed up and left years ago, as did the dockers of Fisherman's Wharf. The corner cafés have not so much disappeared as been subtly transformed. Their menus still bear Italian names - espresso, cappuccino and latte - but what gets served is the Americanised, Pacific Northwest version of Italian coffee, no more than an ersatz replica at twice the price.

And now, horror of horrors, the chain stores beckon. The Californian burger phenomenon Carl's Jr. has already arrived, as has the (admittedly upscale) ice-cream emporium Ben and Jerry's. Rite-Aid wants to open a giant drugstore in the Pagoda Palace, on the rim of Chinatown; 7-Eleven and Starbucks have been turned away for the moment, but are not easily deterred.

In any other American city, the arrival of such outlets would be no more than business as usual. But San Francisco has always prided itself on its rugged individuality, and their incursions come as

a profound shock, especially in hip, bohemian North Beach. "There is an old Indian myth that San Francisco was once an island, and that's how most of us saw it when we first arrived. It didn't seem to be part of the United States at all," reminisced Lawrence Ferlinghetti, who still lives in the area. "As it gentrifies, what made San Francisco special is disappearing fast. It's impossible for an artist or poet to live here any more."

The changes in North Beach have caused such upset that one of San Francisco's city supervisors, Mark Leno, has proposed a moratorium on all new businesses. "I'm just looking for time out, a breather, so we can come up with a more comprehensive plan to preserve the unique character of the neighbourhood," he said recently.

Perhaps Mr Leno protests a shade too much. After all, the "unique character" also includes old sex shops that nobody has ever much liked, and old dives that probably would have gone out of business sooner or later anyway.

One of the biggest changes in North Beach, and one that gets little mention, is the expansion of Chinatown, which has now absorbed as much as half of the old neighbourhood. Nobody could accuse the noisy Asian food shops selling live fish and thick clumps of ginger of being yuppieish; one can't help feeling there's a hint of racism amid the nostalgia.

One thing that remains unchanged, or almost, is the park where Joe Di Maggio used to practise. It was a stubby wedge of asphalt then, and it is a stubby wedge of asphalt now. Sure, a couple of children's swings have been added, and there is talk of naming the spot after San Francisco's recently deceased baseball genius.

But those aren't the sorts of changes to prompt complaints. Remember the smell of rotting fish vanished years ago.

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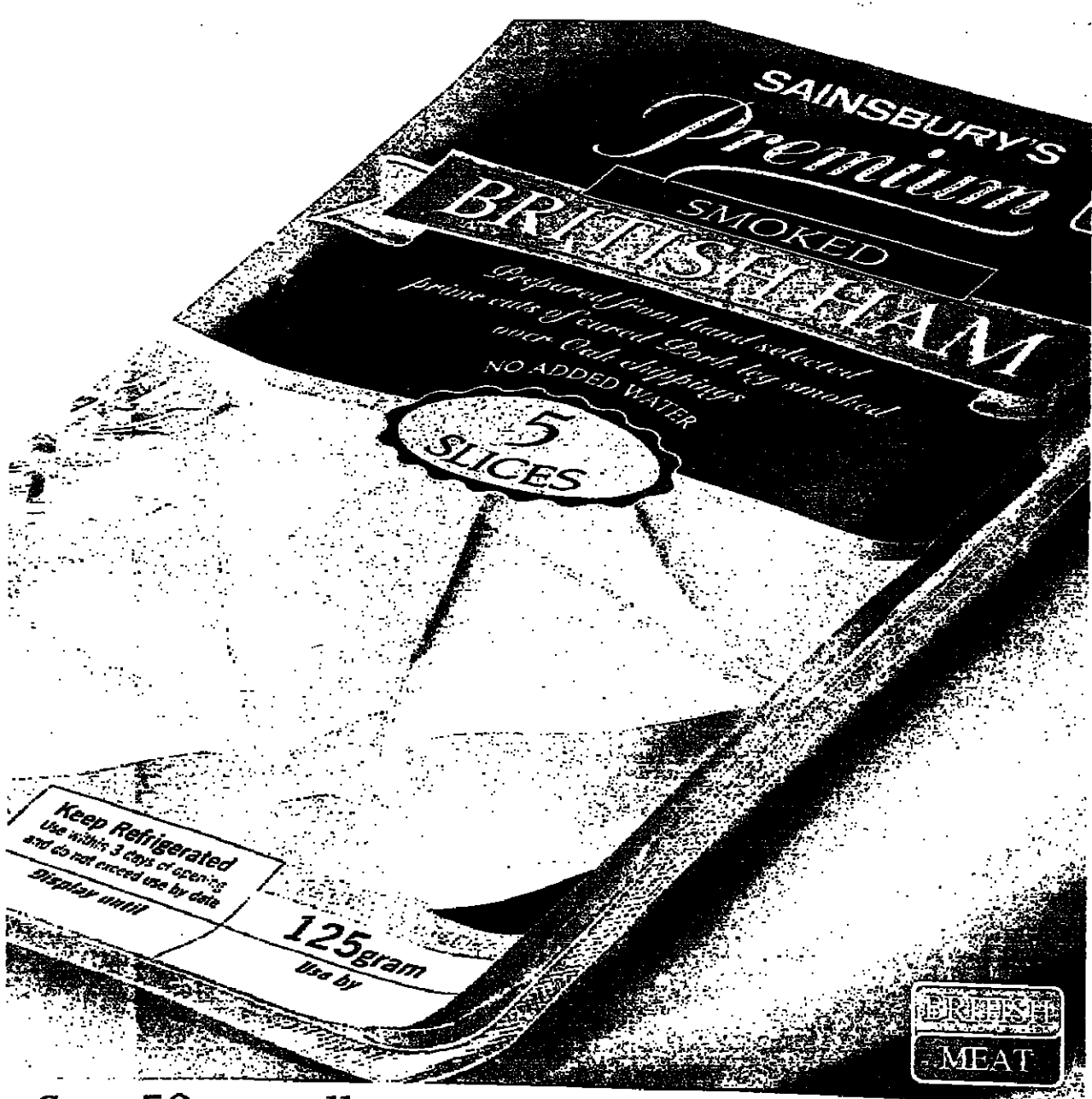
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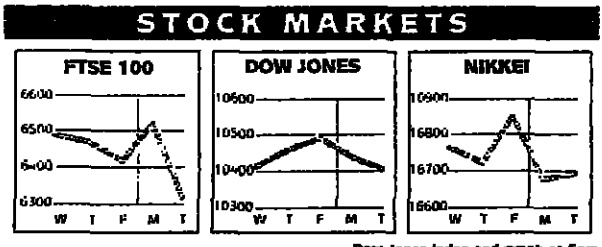
FTSE's 196-point plunge fuels fear bull run is over

BRIEFING

Inside BUSINESS REVIEW today
■ Monsanto: In need of a modified image
■ British Biotech's bitter pill to swallow
■ Powerhouse of the energy industry
■ Merger that created fireworks
PLUS Hamish McRae, Diane Coyle, Jonathan Davis, Derek Pain and The Trader

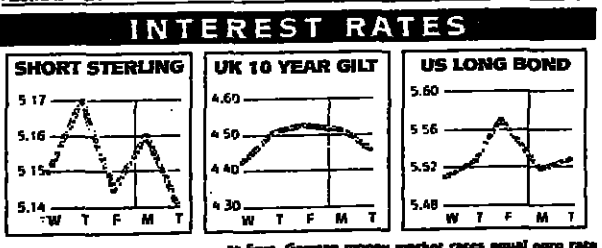
Vallance in the frame at CBI
BT CHAIRMAN Sir Iain Vallance was yesterday nominated as deputy president of the Confederation of British Industry. His name now goes forward to the CBI's annual meeting for election on 20 July. On election he would be expected to serve for a year as deputy to the current president, Sir Clive Thompson, and would succeed him as president in July 2000 for a two-year term. Sir Iain is also vice-chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland, vice-chairman of the European Advisory Committee to the New York Stock Exchange, and a member of the CBI President's Committee.

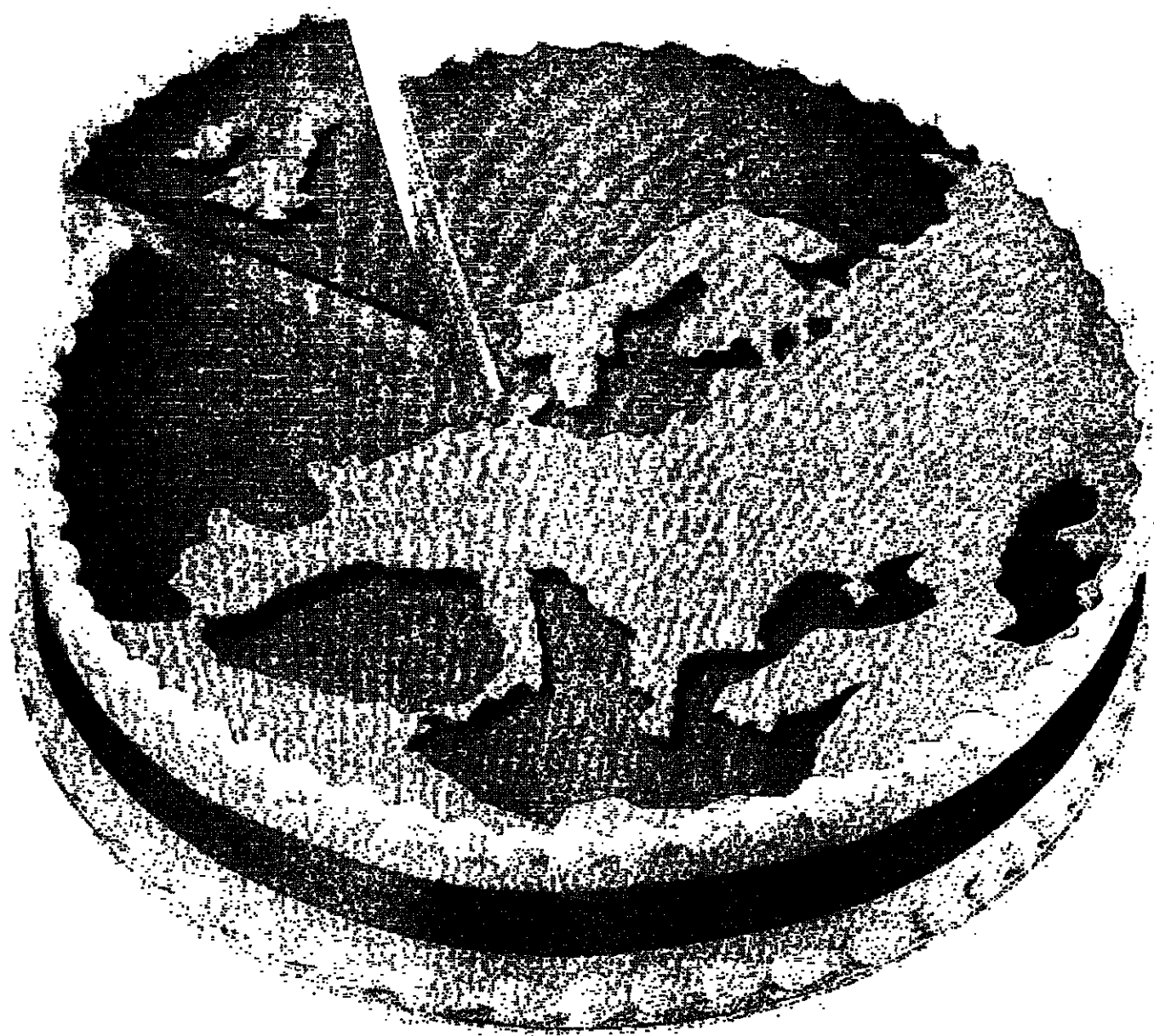
Prudential premiums up 32%
PRUDENTIALS premium income hit £2.5bn in the first quarter, a rise of 32 per cent over the period last year, chief executive Sir Peter Davis said yesterday. Egg, the core of the Pru's new banking business, has more than 400,000 customers and deposits in excess of £5bn, a rise of almost £3bn in the first quarter.
The Pru's premium growth topped forecasts and was in line with that reported by Norwich Union. UK premium income rose by 18 per cent to £1.5bn, including a 24 per cent rise to £1bn in premiums through Scottish Amicable, the subsidiary working through independent financial advisers. Prudential closed 23p lower at 787.5p.



INDICES

Index	Close	Change	52 wk high	52 wk low	YTD %
FTSE 100	6319.80	-195.50	6539.30	4999.20	2.48
FTSE 250	5755.60	-85.80	5970.90	4247.60	3.04
FTSE 350	3024.10	-86.70	3110.80	2210.40	2.57
FTSE All Share	2929.26	-80.99	3010.25	2143.53	2.35
FTSE SmallCap	2473.00	-16.60	2793.80	1834.40	4.60
FTSE Fledgling	1344.10	-10.00	1517.10	1046.20	3.45
FTSE AIM	909.50	-6.90	1146.90	761.30	1.08
FTSE Eurotop 100	2944.31	-79.77	3079.27	2018.15	1.90
FTSE Eurotop 300	1276.83	-30.57	1332.07	880.63	1.85
Dow Jones	10400.44	-35.22	10765.74	7400.30	1.52
Nikkei	16697.11	22.80	17156.06	12787.90	0.76
Hang Seng	12409.78	-356.66	13079.50	6944.78	2.87
Dax	5087.29	-132.86	5217.83	3833.71	1.61
S&P 500	1300.46	-11.99	1362.38	923.32	1.23
Nasdaq	2377.63	-34.89	2630.52	1357.09	0.30
Toronto 300	6898.30	-3.69	7837.70	5320.90	1.51
Brazil Bovespa	10895.31	-300.48	12202.27	4575.69	3.25
Belgium Be120	3223.27	-78.30	3713.21	2696.26	2.04
Amsterdam Eux	549.62	-9.77	600.65	366.58	1.82
France CAC 40	4233.27	-128.07	4416.00	2881.21	1.70
Nissan NISS30	36475.00	-288.00	37170.00	24175.00	1.06
Madrid IBS 35	9562.00	-189.70	10989.80	6869.90	1.75
Irish Overall	5207.89	-108.92	5581.70	3732.57	1.56
S Korea Comp	770.43	3.84	766.59	277.37	0.90
Australia ASX	3090.10	-23.00	3116.90	2386.70	3.01





Fancy a bigger slice of the cake?

The UK boasts some of the most accomplished food and drink producers in the world.

Yet a surprisingly large number are still entirely dependent on the UK for their business.

And it's not getting any easier, with the never-ending tussle over shelf-space and margins in our overcrowded island.

A case of too many eggs in one basket.

But lack of familiarity with overseas markets, retailers, distribution logistics and, at the simplest level, language, can deter even the most aggressive of marketeers.

Where, then, can they turn for this essential help?

Food from Britain: Helping you to hit the ground running

Food from Britain is the UK's leading international food and drink marketing consultancy, with the objective of helping British food and drink producers develop new markets overseas.

Ours is not a consultancy of fine talking theorists, but an intensely practical one.

All our people are commercial professionals working out of their own offices in all the major European countries, North America and Japan, with detailed knowledge of their local markets.

We can help you pinpoint opportunities, supply you with market data and make the key introductions to trade partners and buyers.

We can help you with trade shows, publicity and promotions.

In a nutshell, we'll help you build your business abroad.

The world is your oyster... or tea bag...soup...cereal...

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to realise that the rest of the world represents a bigger potential market than the UK, a genuine opportunity both to grow sales and spread risk.

In fact, the value of UK food and drink exports has doubled in the last decade and now stands at around £10 billion. Hardly surprising given the innovation, imagination and drive that characterises so many UK food and drink producers.

Just to quote from our own portfolio, we have helped UK companies sell breakfast cereal to the Spanish, preserves to the U.S., chilled soups to Belgium and France and drawstring tea bags to the Japanese. In total, we are working with nearly 1000 companies.

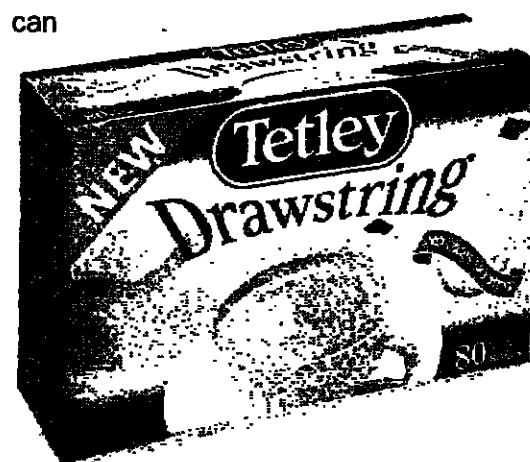
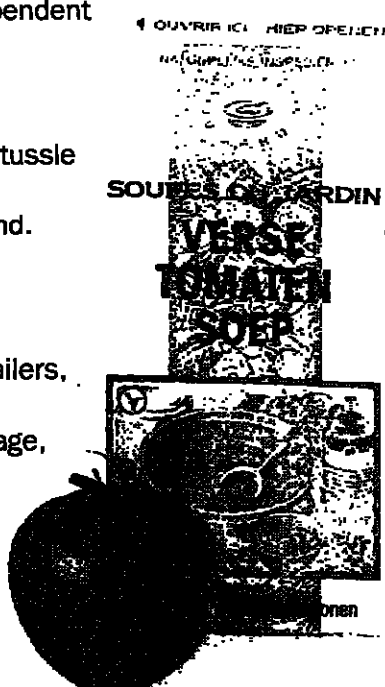
But boil it all down and our value can be described in three short words: Knowledge. Know-how. Contacts.

We've got them. We're ready to share them. Call us.

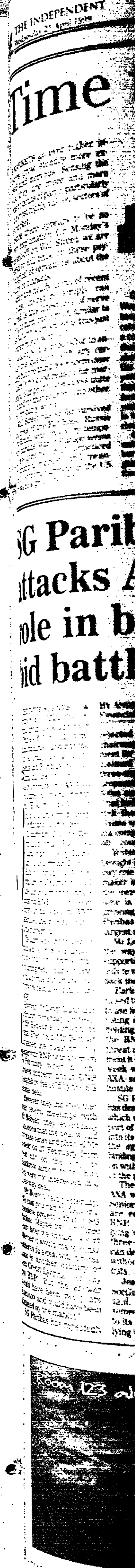
Contact Simon Waring, Marketing Director, on 0171 468 8555 or Andrea Ng,

International Development Director, on 0171 468 8571.

Website: www.foodfrombritain.com



Building your business abroad



54 week

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1375	474	Paul	98.5	0.0	58.3	1.580	80.0	68.1	-0.5	-
1376	228	Robert	98.5	0.0	58.3	1.579	80.0	68.1	-0.5	-
1377	228	Robert	98.5	0.0	58.3	1.579	80.0	68.1	-0.5	-
1378	228	Robert	98.5	0.0	58.3	1.579	80.0	68.1	-0.5	-
1379	228	Robert	98.5	0.0	58.3	1.579	80.0	68.1	-0.5	-
1380	228	Robert	98.5	0.0	58.3	1.579	80.0	68.1	-0.5	-
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1409	228	Robert	98.5	0.0	58.3	1.579	80.0	68.1	-0.5	-
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1412	228	Robert	98.5	0.0	58.3	1.579	80.0	68.1	-0.5	-

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3671	44	Aluminum Exp.	137.6	5.5	4.1	33.6	267	369	70	Overseas Exp.	75.2	0.7	2.3	7.9	2624
3672	179	Aspen	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	238	370	10	Plastic Pipe	27.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2625
3673	237	Avenbury	183.9	4.8	2.4	1.4	336	381	103	Concrete Lm	220.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3322
3674	346	Brown Chemical	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	238	380	150	Brickwork	304.0	20.0	1.0	1.0	1882
3675	118	EWB Damages	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	382	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2626
3676	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	383	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2627
3677	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	384	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3678	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	385	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2628
3679	228	Cheney Shanty	545.0	7.0	3.2	1.2	476.0	386	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3680	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	387	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2629
3681	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	388	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3682	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	389	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2630
3683	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	390	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2631
3684	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	391	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3685	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	392	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2632
3686	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	393	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2633
3687	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	394	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3688	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	395	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2634
3689	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	396	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2635
3690	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	397	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3691	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	398	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2636
3692	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	399	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2637
3693	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	400	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3694	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	401	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2638
3695	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	402	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2639
3696	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	403	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3697	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	404	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2640
3698	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	405	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2641
3699	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	406	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3700	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	407	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2642
3701	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	408	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2643
3702	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	409	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3703	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	410	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2644
3704	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	411	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2645
3705	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	412	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3706	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	413	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2646
3707	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	414	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2647
3708	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	415	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3709	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	416	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2648
3710	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	417	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2649
3711	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	418	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3712	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	419	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2650
3713	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	420	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2651
3714	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	421	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3715	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	422	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2652
3716	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	423	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2653
3717	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	424	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3718	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	425	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2654
3719	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	426	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2655
3720	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	427	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3721	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	428	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2656
3722	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	429	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2657
3723	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	430	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3724	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	431	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2658
3725	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	432	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2659
3726	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	433	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3727	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	434	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2660
3728	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	435	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2661
3729	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	436	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3730	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	437	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2662
3731	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	438	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2663
3732	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	439	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3733	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	440	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2664
3734	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	441	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2665
3735	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	442	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3736	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	443	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2666
3737	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	444	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2667
3738	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	445	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3739	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	446	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2668
3740	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	447	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2669
3741	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	448	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3742	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	449	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2670
3743	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	450	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2671
3744	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	451	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3745	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	452	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2672
3746	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	453	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2673
3747	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	454	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3748	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	455	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2674
3749	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	456	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2675
3750	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	457	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3751	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	458	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2676
3752	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	459	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2677
3753	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	460	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3754	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	461	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2678
3755	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	462	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2679
3756	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	463	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3757	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	464	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2680
3758	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6	0.0	71.0	465	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2681
3759	475	Chetco	777.0	3.7	2.8	1.8	182.0	466	10	Engineer	356.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	6417
3760	242	EWB Damages	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	211.0	467	10	Drum	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2682
3761	118	Cheney Shanty	33.3	1.5	3.6										

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Prices are in sterling except where stated. Prices reflect the official closing rates.
are based on the FTSE-300. The index is the latest 12-month 'constant price' divisor movements
the share price. The 'dividend yield' is the dividend paid as a percentage
the share price divided by last year's earnings per
Shareholders are entitled to a 10% discount on the share price.
Source: Bloomberg.

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1375	474	Paul	98.5	0.0	58.3	74.9	0.0	68.1	0.0	-67.1
1376	228	Robert	98.5	0.0	58.3	74.9	0.0	68.1	0.0	-67.1
1377	228	Robert	98.5	0.0	58.3	74.9	0.0	68.1	0.0	-67.1
2070	131	Donald/Elaine	98.5	0.0	58.3	74.9	0.0	68.1	0.0	-67.1
2071	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2072	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2073	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2074	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2075	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2076	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2077	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2078	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2079	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2080	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2081	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2082	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2083	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2084	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2085	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2086	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2087	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2088	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2089	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2090	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2091	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2092	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2093	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2094	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2095	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2096	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2097	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2098	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2099	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2100	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2101	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2102	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2103	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2104	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2105	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2106	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2107	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2108	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2109	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2110	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2111	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2112	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2113	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2114	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2115	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2116	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2117	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2118	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2119	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2120	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2121	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2122	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2123	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2124	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2125	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2126	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2127	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2128	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2129	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2130	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2131	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2132	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2133	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2134	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2135	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2136	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2137	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2138	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2139	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2140	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2141	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2142	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2143	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2144	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2145	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2146	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2147	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2148	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2149	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2150	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2151	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2152	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2153	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2154	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2155	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2156	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2157	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2158	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2159	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2160	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2161	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2162	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2163	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2164	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2165	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2166	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2167	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2168	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2169	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2170	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2171	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2172	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2173	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2174	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2175	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2176	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2177	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2178	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2179	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2180	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2181	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2182	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2183	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2184	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2185	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2186	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2187	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2188	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2189	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2190	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2191	131	Regina Potts	23.6	0.0	4.2	12.2	29.1	23.6	0.0	-23.6
2192	131									

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1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100																																																																																																																													
1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100																																																																																																																													
1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100																																																																																																																													
1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100																																																																																																																													
1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100																																																																																																																													
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1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100																																																																																																																													
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STEEL & OTHER METALS				1,613
176	100 B&B Steel	157.0	23.0	183.0
177				
178				
SUPPORT SERVICES				-2,003.3
179				
1800	321 AEA Tensos	326.0	-29.5	39.0
181	127 AEA Tensos	11.0	1.0	22.0
182	300 AEA Tensos	267.5	23.0	48.0
183	300 AEA Tensos	147.0	0.0	22.0
184	204 AEA Tensos	267.0	4.0	
185	160 B&B	50.5	0.0	22.0
186	160 B&B	74.0	0.0	22.0
187	730 B&B	510.0	0.0	15.0
188	730 B&B	780.0	0.0	15.0
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Prices are in sterling except where stated. Prices reflect the official closing rates.
 are based on the FTSE-300. The index is the latest 12-month 'constant price' divisor movements
 the share price. The 'dividend' (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per
 share, excluding extraordinary items but including exceptional. Other details in Excludes: Excludes:
 S & P Superscripted, a Fully Paid, no split. On Prices are Bloomberg Company.

THE INDEPENDENT TELEPHONE - TEL. 05001 - 201 1

to access Real-Time Share Prices, 24 hours a day, call 05001 - 201 201.
 you will hear the current FTSE 100 index followed by a Share Market Summary Report.
 you can interrupt any time to hear a Real-Time Share Price by keying in "Share" plus a 4-digit 'order' from the
 listings on the screen.

For a Membership Number to set-up your Portnetto facility, please call the Help Desk on 0870-600-3200 (during business hours).
For help with the service, including the Portnetto facility, call the Help Desk on 0870-600-3200 (7/24 p.m., London EC2A 4PU). Ocean calls cost 60p per minute.

Call 0870 600 4200

All 09001 calls cost 60p per minute
Service provider TIS Ltd, London EC2A 4PF

SPECIAL & OTH FINANCE		2.36%				
14C	84 Aberdeen Net	137.5	-3.5	41	33.5	3657
17B	237 Avenueway	891.9	+97.5	14	38.5	75.9
17C	145 Brown Oxford	81.0	0.0	8.8	26.2	39.0
18C	2100 Buxton	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
19B	1601 Buxton	792.5	-4.0	3.4	24.5	11.1
19C	1601 Buxton	792.5	-4.0	3.4	24.5	11.1
19D	1601 Buxton	792.5	-4.0	3.4	24.5	11.1
19E	475 Clinton	137.0	+37.0	1.8	16.2	50.0
19F	222 Clinton	546.0	7.0	1.2	18.5	5.4
20C	199 Clinton Taylor	301.5	0.5	2.8	24.7	166.5
20D	199 Clinton Taylor	301.5	-20.5	2.5	19.3	38.5
20E	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20F	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20G	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20H	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20I	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20J	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20K	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20L	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20M	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20N	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20O	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20P	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20Q	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20R	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20S	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20T	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20U	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20V	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20W	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20X	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20Y	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20Z	401 Chase Drive	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
21A	145 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21B	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21C	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21D	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21E	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21F	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21G	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21H	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21I	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21J	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21K	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21L	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21M	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21N	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21O	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21P	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21Q	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21R	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21S	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21T	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21U	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
21V	700 County P.C.	74.5	-4.5	1.5	2.5	1

2531	48	18 Union Carbide	193.5 ± 0.0	1476			
2536	156	50 Vernalis Corp	149.0 ± 0.0	478	45.8	169	
2780						115	101 Midway Group
2876						49	49 Midwestern Inc
2877						305	195 Montgomery Group
2878						1	1 MW Sports Corp
2879						72	48 NMT Group PLC
2880						158	25 Nottingham Forest
2881						149	160 NRS Steel Corp
2882						36	8 Oxford Biotechnics
2883						156	59 Petco Diamonds
2884						135	163 Policy Minister
2885						204	205 P&S
2886						204	205 P&S
2887						204	205 P&S
2888						204	205 P&S
2889						204	205 P&S
2890						204	205 P&S
2891						204	205 P&S
2892						204	205 P&S
2893						204	205 P&S
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2895						204	205 P&S
2896						204	205 P&S
2897						204	205 P&S
2898						204	205 P&S
2899						204	205 P&S
2900						204	205 P&S
2901						204	205 P&S
2902						204	205 P&S
2903						204	205 P&S
2904						204	205 P&S
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2906						204	205 P&S
2907						204	205 P&S
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2928						204	205 P&S
2929						204	205 P&S
2930						204	205 P&S
2931						204	205 P&S
2932						204	205 P&S
2933						204	205 P&S
2934						204	205 P&S
2935						204	205 P&S
2936						20	

640	156	232	Priceless	328.2	-7.5	1.6	40.3	63.12	Antarctic Media	59.5	0.0
640	156	16	Praxion	22.3	-0.5	3.0	4.0	18.16	Coca-Cola Beverages	107.0	-1.0
640	156	200	PSR	44.2	-5.5	3.0	14.9	68.12	Edelman PR	225.3	0.0
640	156	288	Quality Street	505.0	>30.0	-	19.9	67.69	IBM Computers	250.0	-2.5
640	156	41	Reckitt	11.5	-0.5	3.4	5.0		JVC Telecom	150.0	-1.0
640	156	71	Reed Eric	11.5	-0.5	3.4	5.0		JVC Telecom	150.0	-1.0
640	156	220	Reliance Star	195.0	0.0	5.0	12.7	59.92	Salesforce	41.0	-0.5
640	156	278	Rembrandt	357.8	-19.5	1.2	20.3	77.78		0.0	0.0
640	156	381	Ricardo Group	387.0	-1.0	2.8	24.7	24.02			
640	156	401	Ricochet & P	210.0	-0.0	1.6					
640	156	498	RMS Air	478.5	>30.0	-					

source: **Bloomberg**

[illegible]

Buyers' strike tips Footsie off its heady peak

LONDON SHARES took a massive tumble yesterday as the overnight tribulations of the US hi-tech and Internet stocks inspired a bout of selling in their UK counterparts.

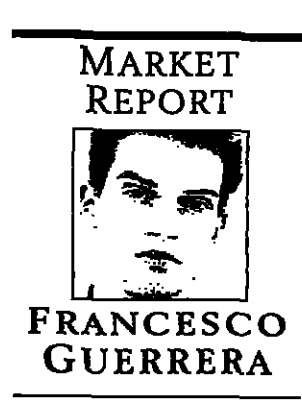
The negative mood quickly spread to other highly-rated stocks, and profit takers emerged among recent star performers such as telecoms and financials.

The bearish mood kicked the FTSE 100 off its pedestal. The blue-chip index started the day from the comfort of another all-time peak but quickly fell out of bed, finishing 195.5 points off at 6,319.8. It was the second-biggest point fall since the crash of 1987, but most market players were untruffed and seemed more concerned with some bomb hoaxes in a couple of City institutions.

A heavy sell-off of techie stocks on Nasdaq on Monday, coupled with an uncertain start for the Dow yesterday, were seen as the chief culprits. Traders also said the London fall was due more to a lack of buyers than a rush to sell. The turnover figure - over a 1 billion but below the 1.4 billion registered on Monday, lent weight to the buyers' strike argument.

The undercard took a smaller pasting. The FTSE 250 lost 95.8 points to 5,733.6, while the small cap fared even better, ending a mere 16.6 points off at 2,473.0.

A few resilient takeover rumours survived the minor market bloodbath. Greenalls, the pubs and De Vere hotels group, firmed 8.5p to 345.5p after the return of the old chestnut of a bid from a rival beer group. Bass, up 23p to 888p, is the hot tip. There are whispers of an offer



FRANCESCO GUERRERA

MARKET REPORT

Positive noises on the beleaguered chemicals sector from BT Alex. Brown also helped.

Reckitt & Colman benefited from its defensive qualities. The Harpic-to-Lemspig group cleaned up with a 18p rise to 679.5p. Reckitt was aided by speculation that it has been chosen by Warren Buffett as his favourite blue chip.

Two other alleged Buffett targets, Marks & Spencer and Diageo, were also on the up. M&S bagged a 11p rise to 444.25p, while the Guinness brewer rose a smooth 12p to 688p.

The meagre list of FTSE 100 risers was completed by

loss to 1,551p. Another high-flyer, Colt Telecom, slumped 83p to 1,070p as ABN Amro said "overvalued".

Fellow telecoms providers Telewest, down 20p to 252.75p, and Cable & Wireless Communications, 31.5p lower at 658.5p, felt the pinch of a regulatory probe. Reuters dug its own grave, falling 70.5p to 861.5p on poor first-quarter figures.

CGU slumped 37p to 940p after warning that trading conditions in the general insurance market remain tough. Rival Sun Life & Provincial fell 36p to 529.5p.

Kingfisher was another big loser, shedding 50p to 746p. The latest slump values the Woolworths-to-B&Q bid for Asda at a mere 169p per share. Asda was trading well above that yesterday, finishing at 183.75p despite a 10p fall. When Kingfisher launched its all-paper bid, it valued each Asda share at 198p.

Prudential lost 23p to 787.5p despite good new business figures, just like fellow insurer Legal & General, down 15p to 718.5p. NatWest had a 44p deficit at 1,522p despite an upbeat trading statement. Fears of a holiday price war sent Thomson Travel 16p lower to 159p, while Airtours, still mulling an offer for First Choice, nosedived 35p to 453.5p.

St Ives, the paper group, inspired brokers with a positive set of figures and soared 49p to 530.5p. Hepworth was nearby in the FTSE 250 biggest risers' chart; the boiler-maker sparked 14p higher to 195p as old talk of an overseas bidder resurfaced. Hepworth could also bid for Polypipe, up 0.5 to 209.5p. Among the minnows, the

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence

RECKITT & COLMAN

AM J J A S O N D J F M A

Source: Datastream

THERE IS THE WHIFF OF CORPORATE ACTION AT Waverley Mining, a hard-pressed Scottish coal producer.

The shares yesterday moved 0.25p higher to 5.5p. They were once 132p. A couple of investors are thought to be building a stake in the group, which owns over a quarter of a privately-owned coal mining group and around 20 per cent of an Australian field. It is rumoured that the investors could look at a bid for the whole group.

of 480p a share, valuing Greenalls at about £1.2bn. Old favourite Whitbread was also the subject of some bar talk, serving up a 14p advance to 1,038p. Greenalls will be a great catch for Whitbread, as it would boost its David Lloyd fitness clubs and add a sizeable chunk of pubs. The prospect of a takeover of Greenalls triggered hopes of a bid for the regional hotelier Swallow Group, which booked a 12.5p rise to 317.5p. Bass and Whitbread were two of only 11 blue chips to rise on the day. Imperial Chemical Industries was the leader of this thin pack, putting on 32p to 705.5p as buyers moved in ahead of tomorrow's re-

SmithKline Beecham, which injected a 14.5p jump to 826p, and Daily Mail, up 23p to 3,285p after Schroders upgraded its forecasts.

The other takeover rumour of the day centred on Northern Foods. The chilled food maker cooked up a 7.5p rise to 115.5p on vague talk of a strike by its bigger rival Associated British Food. The fact that ABF, down 9.25p to 434.25p on brokers' downgrades, will still have around £1bn in the kitty after its proposed £448m cash-back, excited dealers' minds.

The fallers' chart made sorry reading for Internet, computer and telecoms stocks - the recent market stalwarts. Dixons, the electrical retailer with an Internet twist, shortcircuited 108p lower to 1,230p as the Web link that has propelled the shares to absurd heights came back to haunt it. The computer services group FI crashed 37.5p to 287.5p, followed by the software maker Sage, down 192.5p to 1,925p. Even the all-conquering Psion bowed to the pressure, sliding 77.5p to 870p.

The fall-out from the Nasdaq sell-off hit the FTSE 100 newcomer Energis. The telecoms group rang up a 137p

DURING A DAY when Internet-related stocks were savaged by sellers, Affinity Internet managed to more than double its value.

The company debuted on the Alternative Investment Market with a 73.5p rise to 143.5p, well up from its 70p float price. Affinity, which designs websites for several companies, including Arsenal football club and the retailer Toys 'R' Us, also raised £2.75m through a placing at the float price.

crochery maker Denby posted a cracking 24.5p advance after announcing that it is in offer talks. Portmeirion, up 5p to 147.5p, and John Tams, flat at 17.5p, were dragged into the bid frenzy.

Ivernia West, an Irish mining company, dug up a 5p advance to 44p after taking a stake in an Australian lead mine. Jursys Hotels rose 9p to 587.5p after launching a £187.6m bid for fellow Irish host Doyle Hotel. Vague talk of a bid for the chemical group Yorkshire left the shares unchanged at 112.5p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.2 billion SEAQ TRADES: 96,676 GILTS INDEX: 111.46 +0.51

Debenhams to start selling on the Internet

DEBENHAMS, the department store group that was demerged from Burton just over a year ago, will start selling goods on the Internet in the autumn as it steps up its interests in electronic commerce.

By NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

Debenhams already has a web site and it plans soon to upgrade its wedding list service so that items can be ordered on the Internet. It will make more regular merchandise available for Internet ordering and is also planning to extend its Internet e-commerce, which is currently a single outlet in central London.

In addition, Terry Green, chief executive, said Debenhams was holding "initial discussions with third parties to set up joint ventures either related to the Internet or digital television."

The comments came as Debenhams reported a solid set of half-year results and said consumer confidence was gradually returning.

Stripping out the effects of the demerger, which distorted the pre-tax figures, underlying profits rose by 3 per cent to £78.4m in the six months to February.

Though like-for-like sales were down by 2 per cent on the year before and are down by a similar figure in current trading, the company said its

DEBENHAMS: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £1.7bn, share price 465.5p (-3p)

Five-year record	1996	1997	1998	97/98	98/99
Turnover (£m)	1,117	1,283	1,360	770.2	785.2
Pre-tax profits (£m)	56.4	1705	303.6	242.1	79.4
Earnings per share (p)	10.5	2.5	65.8	54.8	14.1
Dividends per share (p)	-	-	9.8	39	4.1

margin figures were more encouraging.

Part of Debenhams' success is that it has avoided the worst discounting on the high street. It has improved its gross margin by 6.2 percentage points and has reaped the benefits of a gradual concentration of its supply base from 3,000 suppliers four years ago to 650 now.

The company has also successfully integrated popular own-brands, such as Maine New England and Trader, with exclusive ranges from designer houses such as Oswald Boeteng.

Debenhams admits it must have benefited from the woes at Marks & Spencer and says it has increased its market share in both menswear and womenswear.

Going forward, Debenhams is planning to open 15 new stores over the next four years, to take its chain to more than 100 outlets.

The current weakness with Debenhams is that it is finding it difficult to drive sales forward significantly. But the keen cost control and margin improvement should keep earnings momentum going.

The home shopping joint venture with Freemans also

looks promising. Two more catalogues should be produced later this year, with the first 600-page Debenhams Direct catalogue due next year.

One potential cloud on Debenhams' horizon is the M&S factor. With the wounded giant of Baker Street getting tougher on prices, this is likely to have a knock-on effect on rivals such as Debenhams and Storehouse, the Bhs group.

Investors have seen a strong rally in the stock over the last six months from a low of 272p last autumn. Yesterday Debenhams shares closed 3p lower at 465.5p.

On SG Securities' full-year forecast of £140m this puts them on a forward multiple of almost 19, a discount to rivals such as Next and M&S.

This is a solid, well-managed business but the shares look up with events for now.

St Ives upgraded on strong results

St Ives, the specialist printer now reclassified as a media stock, comfortably beat market forecasts for the six months to 29 January, earning a re-rating from the City and a 10 per cent jump in the share price yesterday.

By CLIFFORD GERMAN

Turnover increased by 24 per cent to £223m, while profits rose by 13 per cent to £27.3m. Much of the increase in sales and perhaps half the extra profit came from Hunters Armley, the direct-response printer acquired for £33m last June.

A drop in margins was also chiefly due to the inclusion of Hunters Armley, which further increased sales of paper included virtually at cost in leaflet printing contracts, chairman Miles Emley said yesterday.

Results in the UK exceeded

expectations, with sales rising by around 5 per cent on a like-for-like basis. All divisions contributed, including direct response advertising, magazine and book printing, financial reports, and printing for the music and multimedia industries.

The group continues to benefit from its strong market share, continuing investment in new equipment and the flexibility permitted by its wide range of operations.

The chances of a soft landing for the economy are improving and new plant is being brought on stream in the US to ease capacity constraints, but the outlook in Germany remains clouded by fierce competition and slow growth, St Ives said.

The company is still looking out for acquisitions, especially in North America, but the task of rationalising Hunters Armley still has some way to go, Mr Emley said.

Miles Emley: Still on the lookout for acquisitions

The switch from the defunct paper and publishing sector to media should lead to a re-rating of the shares and a rise in the number of analysts following the company, but the shares continue to suffer from the concentration of institutional investors on FTSE 100 companies, group managing director Brian Richards said.

Analysts began upgrading forecasts yesterday, with Alastair Irvine of Merrill Lynch raising his expectations for the current year to the end of July from £53m to £56m and earnings of 37p, rising to £60m and 39p in 2001.

The shares have rallied steadily for six months; they jumped another 50p to 530.5p yesterday, which is a fairer reflection of their value.

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Back to the shop floor

STEVE BROOMHEAD, chief executive of Warrington Borough Council, is swapping places with a fireman, and the chair of Dorset County Council, Pat Hymers, is changing places with a tea lady.

The musical chairs are in aid of national Learning at Work Day on 20 May, an event organised by the Campaign for Learning and sponsored by hundreds of companies, including Marks & Spencer, British Aerospace and National Grid.

The Learning at Work campaign stresses the importance of senior management commitment, and a number of chief executives have been challenged to practise what they preach with "back to the floor" job swaps.

Thus the chairman of Microsoft UK, David Svendsen, is set to swap places with Michael Richard, the Permanent Secretary for 12 years and chairman of the board of governors of Nottingham Trent University. He has been a lifelong supporter of the club and a long-term shareholder.

Mr Barnes expects to appoint at least one more non-exec. And the manager is still "Big" Ron Atkinson.

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Sadly, the usual Microsoft share options are not part of the deal.

New signing

Sir David White, chairman of Mansfield Brewery, has joined Nottingham Forest as a non-executive director as the process continues of returning the club to "local" control.

This follows the departure of London-based property developer Nigel Wray as chairman a week ago in favour of a local man, Eric Barnes, deputy chairman of Great Universal Stores, a big employer in Nottingham.

Sir David is certainly a local worthy, having been head of the Nottingham Health Authority for 12 years and chairman of the board of governors of Nottingham Trent University. He has been a lifelong supporter of the club and a long-term shareholder.

Mr Barnes expects to appoint at least one more non-exec. And the manager is still "Big" Ron Atkinson.

Top marque

LESS THAN a year after buying Lamborghini, the Italian sports car manufacturer, from cash-strapped Asians including the former Indonesian President Suharto's youngest son Tommy, Audi has dropped any idea of keeping the firm "independent".

Instead the suits from Ingolstadt, Germany, have put two of their men in charge. Hajden Lesbel has taken over

marketing and technician Rodolfo Rocchio is overseeing engineering and design.

Every decision has to be referred back to Germany, and Lamborghini's chief executive, Vittorio Di Capua, is believed to be on the way out.

The Italians are now under orders to increase production to 2,000 cars a year. A tall order, given that total production in 1997 was just 200, with a total over the previous 35 years of 8,000.

Audi's crackdown may well have been inspired by BMW's experience with Rover, although the two cases are quite different. So far, Audi is down only the DM100m (£35m) on what it is estimated to have spent on buying the company, which is already in the black.

Even so, Audi's chief bean-counter, Dittmar Schimanski, has been publicly complaining about the fact that Audi somehow managed to wind up owning only the Automobili Lamborghini marque, but not full rights to the name.

As he has painfully discovered, this means Tommaso Lamborghini, son of the firm's

founder, is free to cash in by licensing the name to makers of everything from olive oil and pasta to golf clubs and sunglasses.

Meanwhile in Indonesia, Tommy Suharto is still the owner of the Lamborghini Cafe in Jakarta.

Michelin men

WHATEVER HAPPENS in the current merger rumpus with its major banks, France's tyre-making industry is still a reassuringly family affair. Michelin announced yesterday that Edouard Michelin, 35, will succeed his father, Francois Michelin, as head of the company.

Francois Michelin, 72, joined the council of the family-run company in 1955 and still has another three years to go. And the company's literally pneumatic mascot, "Bibendum", also serves on, although in a slightly slimmer form than in previous years.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Starting	1 month	3 months	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 months	Euro
UK	1.0000			0.6196	0.6198	0.6200	0.6598
Australia	2.4915	2.4909	2.4905	1.5438	1.5439	1.5441	1.6416
Austria	20.885	20.873	20.860	17.941	17.938	17.933	17.7603
Belgium	61.756	61.061	60.831	37.937	37.860	37.716	40.340
Canada	2.4040	2.4029	2.4009	1.4896	1.4894	1.4896	1.5839
Denmark	11.281	11.259	11.221	6.9900	6.9787	6.9570	7.0108
France	9.0741	9.0028	8.9660	5.9515	5.9802	5.9989	6.9467
Germany	2.9685	2.9612	2.9494	6.1688	6.1588	6.1330	6.5588
Greece	484.69	486.54	489.99	306.52	307.77	310.00	325.94
Hong Kong	1.195	1.192	1.1876	7.7480	7.7484	7.7480	8.3588
Ireland	12.504	12.501	12.506	0.7406	0.7379	0.7351	0.7876
Italy	2936.8	2937.8	2919.8	1820.9	1817.2	1810.3	1936.27
Japan	130.70	129.85	129.45	118.16	117.66	117.06	125.645
Malaysia	6.1328	6.1295	6.1113	3.8000	3.8550	3.9750	4.0407
Mexico	15.187			9.2074	2.0682	2.0603	2.7037
Netherlands	3.3477	3.3369	3.3283	0.5489	0.5489	0.5489	1.9372
New Zealand	2.2402	2.2402	2.2394	1.7895	1.7895	1.7895	2.0359
Norway	12.590	12.590	12.590	188.54	188.16	187.44	200.48
Portugal	304.28	303.56	303.32	3.7502	3.7521	3.7575	3.9878
Saudi Arabia	6.9524	6.9524	6.9524	1.7085	1.7029	1.6935	1.8167
South Africa	5.3444	5.3444	5.3444	6.0815	6.1315	6.2148	6.4668
Spain	9.9149	9.9149	9.9149	156.47	156.16	155.96	166.386
Sweden	252.32	251.93	251.93	8.3910	8.3770	8.3487	8.9226
Switzerland	13.542	13.515	13.486	1.5065	1.5010	1.4915	1.6015
US	1.6139			1.0000			0.9404

INTEREST RATES

UK	Base	Discount	5.00%	Repo (Ave)	2.50%
European Central Bank	Discount	2.75%		Discount	0.50%
ON Marginal 5.00%	US	Discount	Swiss	Discount	0.50%
ON Facility 1.50%	Prime	7.75%	Discount	Lombard	2.75%
Canada	2.50%	Discount	4.50%		
Japan	6.50%	Discount	4.50%		

LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. Value	Open Interest
Long Gilt	Jun-99	117.40	117.60	117.20	211,200
5 Yr Gilt	Jun-99	108.02	108.02	108.02	79,128.00
German Bund	Jun-99	115.74	115.74	115.74	115.74
Italian Bond	Jun-99	114.70	114.92	114.64	11,895.00
Japan Govt Bd	Jun-99	134.61	134.70	134.55	18,012.00
3 Mth Sterling	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euroyen	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Eurodollar	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro Swiss	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro Yen	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro JPY	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro CHF	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro AUD	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro NZD	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro HKD	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro SGD	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro TWD	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro KRW	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro BRL	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro ZAR	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro INR	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro MYR	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro THB	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro PHP	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro VND	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro IDR	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro CNY	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro HKD	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro SGD	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro TWD	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro KRW	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro BRL	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro ZAR	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro INR	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro MYR	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro THB	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro PHP	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro VND	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro IDR	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00
3 Mth Euro CNY	Jun-99	94.86	94.87	94.84	14,077.00

INDUSTRIAL METALS

Aluminum HG	1294	1295	-8.00	1316	1317	-6	793050	-1975
Aluminum Alloy	1170	1175	-5.00	1190	1195	-3	64300	-840
Copper A	1518.5	1519.5	14.00	1548	1549	14	742530	-300
Lead	527	528	-1.50	531	531.5	-1	103750	320
Nickel	5160	5170	-20.00	5240	5250	-70	61302	-108
Zinc	5440	5450	10.00	5455	5460	15	59905	75
Tin	1024	1025	-11.50	1044	1045	-10	318625	425

PRECIOUS METALS										
per troy oz	per troy oz	per troy oz	Year's	Year's	Calcs (\$)	Year's	Year's			
CHG	CHG	CHG	CHG	CHG		CHG	CHG			
Platinum	364.00	1.50	-50.00	Platinum	225.05	1.05	-21.80	Krug/Trands	290.50	-8.80
Palladium	384.00	5.00	57.50	Palladium	237.40	2.95	-42.70	Sows	716.05	
Silver	5.15	0.08	-1.15	Silver	3.18	0.05	-0.56	Noobles	38.75	
Gold	284.35	0.15	-23.10					Maple Leaf	292.02	-84.20

AGRICULTURAL AT 3:30PM									
Cacao		Coffee		Barley		Potatoes		Soya Beans**	
May/99	E/none	May/99	E/none	May/99	E/none	May/99	E/none	May/99	E/none
May/99	740.20	May/99	1470.30	May/99	75.25	May/99	170.50	Apr/99	554.75
Jun/99	753.20	Jun/99	1480.00	Jun/99	73.75	Jun/99	170.00	May/99	584.00
Aug/99	759.80	Sep/99	1491.00	Nov/99	73.75	Nov/99	75.00	Jun/99	598.50
Vol:	892	Vol:	885	Vol:	10	Vol:	—	Vol:	—

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Suffering exporters shun 'tired' prize

THE NUMBER of companies applying for the Queen's Award for Export Achievement has plunged to its lowest level in the awards' 33-year history, prompting a renewed outcry about the strength of sterling.

In 1997, 1,300 British companies applied to win a Queen's Award for exports. Last year the number fell to 864 and this year to just 520.

The Prime Minister set up a fundamental review of the awards before Christmas, after it emerged that entries for the

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

other two categories - technology and the environment - also hit their lowest levels ever. The review committee is chaired by the Prince of Wales. Its mandate is to implement reforms in time for next year's awards.

Some interpreted this year's figures as graphic evidence of the damage from the strong pound and last year's collapse in Asian markets. Others blamed the "tiredness" of the awards' concept, and form-filling.

The Confederation of British Industry said: "It is hardly surprising that the numbers are down, as exporters have had a tough time. It shows the combined effects of the difficulties in South-east Asia and Eastern Europe as well as the strength of sterling throughout last year."

The CBI spokesman added: "You also have to take into account the weakness of Western European economies at the end of last year, which are still our major export markets."

A spokesman for the Engineering Employers' Federation said: "It's not surprising at all, given how export-dependent we are. It is also a reflection of what we've said over the last couple of years; that the strength of the pound is damaging us, particularly in European markets. This will continue this year and next."

Ruth Lea, head of the policy unit at the Institute of Directors, pointed out that the number of applicants for technology and environment awards had also fallen. The number applying for technology awards fell from 278

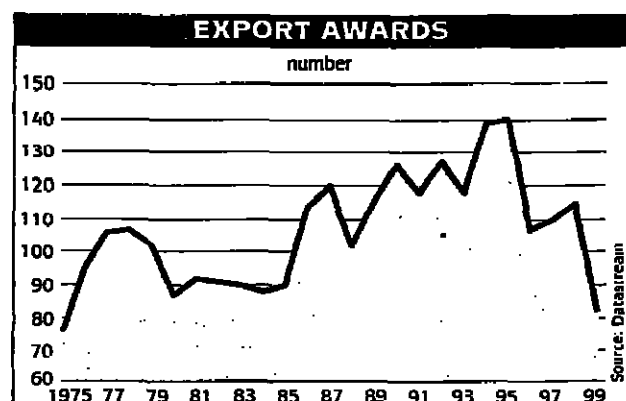
in 1997 to 163 this year. Applicants for the environment award fell from 146 to 82 over the same period.

Referring to the DTI review of the scheme, Ms Lea said: "The DTI has been aware for some time that the awards are looking tired. After all, the technology award has been around since the mid-Sixties."

She said that the system of applying for the awards might be "a bit bureaucratic". She said the IoD had suggested to the review committee that the name should

be changed to "Queen's Awards for Enterprise".

Sources close to the review committee say the name of the scheme is being reconsidered, although the Queen's name will be retained. Among changes being considered are a broadening of the export award to include international trade in general. The technology awards may be expanded to include innovation in general. The environment award may also cover environmental management as well as products.



The malt whisky market is still buoyant. 'It's a premium product and people are still prepared to pay for it,' says Macallan John Voos

Macallan keeps whisky exports flowing

THE MACALLAN Distillers, maker of malt whisky since 1824, has won a Queen's Award for Export after increasing the percentage of its production sold overseas from 54 per cent to 61 per cent over the last three years, writes John Willcock.

The company is based on the banks of the River Spey in Banffshire, Scotland, and sells about 200,000 cases of malt whisky a year.

Simon Sanders, director of corporate affairs at Highland Distillers, the Perth company that owns Macallan, said sales

had prospered despite the current strength of the pound.

"The malt whisky market is still buoyant. Also the strong markets for malt whisky are not in Asia and Latin America, but rather in Europe and North America, with the exception of Japan. It's a premium product,

and people are still prepared to pay for it," he said.

Macallan has won its second successive export award and its fourth in total. Mr Sanders says the company is dedicated to maintaining the Macallan virtues, such as the exclusive use of sherry casks for the

whisky's maturation. "We arrange for the casks to be built and put into the Spanish sherry industry. Then when they've been used the effects of the sherry on the wood impart a smooth and rather sweet taste to the whisky," Mr Sanders said.

Into battle against bacteria

HEALTH SCARES associated with bacteria could be a thing of the past, thanks to the development of a system that has won its inventors a Queen's Award for Technological Achievement, writes Roger Trapp.

Hertfordshire-based The Technology Partnership received the award for ChemScan, which is claimed to be the world's first rapid bacterial detection system that can provide results in minutes rather than days or weeks.

Jas Sanghera headed the development at TTP which has become a leading European centre for innovation since its establishment 11 years ago. He said: "This is the only system that can satisfy the ever-increasing demands of the food, drink and water industries to put an end to the public health scares caused by e.coli and cryptosporidium."

Support for the pharmaceuticals industry was also behind a Queen's Award for Export Achievement presented to Akos Healthcare Group. The award was in recognition of its long-term success in the international healthcare industry.

Service industries make their mark

THE INCREASING importance of service industries to the British economy is clearly demonstrated by this year's Queen's Awards for Export, Technological and Environmental Achievement.

Service companies accounted for 33 per cent of the export award winners, compared with about 15 to 20 per cent in recent years.

The three lists have their share of more traditional manufacturers, such as Belleek Pottery, which has been making fine china giftware in Northern Ireland for nearly a century and a half, and HDA Forgings, the Worcestershire-based manufacturer of hand and die-forged components for the aerospace, defence, transport and general industrial sectors, as well as pharmaceutical companies, such as Glaxo and Zeneca.

But taking their place alongside them are such organisations as the City of London-based international law firm Allen & Overy and Bupa, one of the world's leading providers of private medical insurance.

BY ROGER TRAPP

There are also many consultancies, including Cambrian Consultants, which works with oil companies to maximise their hydrocarbon potential in order to improve operational efficiency and control costs, and Huthwaite International, a sales and management training organisation that has clients in 26 countries.

A notable success is London City Airport, located in the capital's Docklands, which has overcome the constraints of a short runway, short operating hours and movement limitations as well as difficult access on the ground to nearly double export earnings over three years.

With 13 airlines serving 23 European cities, it handles 1.4 million passengers a year, of which 60 per cent are not from the UK.

Zeneca, which is merging with the Swedish group Astra, appears twice in the lists. Its agrochemicals division, based in Haslemere, Surrey, receives a technological achievement award for the invention and de-

velopment of a fungicide that both protects plants from fungus and cures them if they are already affected by the condition.

Meanwhile, Zeneca's metal extraction products arm, based in Manchester, wins an environmental award for the development of a process used in the manufacture of a chemical product associated with the extraction of copper from waste ore that reduces effluent by 85 per cent.

Britain's nautical tradition is upheld by Brunton's Propellers of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, which wins a technological achievement award for the development of the Autoprop, an automatic variable pitch propeller which adapts to the conditions in which a boat is operating.

By working in this way, the propeller achieves much higher efficiency over a wider range of operating speeds than is possible with conventional fixed propellers.

As a result, vessel speeds are higher, fuel consumption is lower and emissions are reduced.

Complete list of this year's award-winners

The following is the list of Queen's Awards winners for 1999:

EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Aggreko UK Ltd, Dumbarton
Allen & Overy International, London
Beardow & Adams (Adhesives) Ltd, Buckinghamshire
Belleek Pottery Limited, Fermanagh
British Aerospace Airbus, Bristol
BUPA International, Brighton
CNP Print & Packaging Limited, Northamptonshire
Cambrian Consultants Limited, Monmouthshire
Cambridge Phoenix Consultancy Limited, Cambridge
Caterpillar (UK) Ltd, Leicester
H. Charlesworth & Co Ltd, Yorkshire
Coltrane Ltd, Cambridgeshire
Compassionate International Ltd, Gloucestershire
Corney & Barrow (Broker Services) Limited, London
Crambeth Allen Publishing, Shropshire
Crystallex Limited, Oxfordshire
Data Connection Limited, Middlesex
Digital Engineering Limited, Belfast
Dorset Corrosion Ltd, Dorset
Druck Limited, Leicestershire
Durham Associates Group Limited, Durham
Dytech Corporation, South Yorkshire
Edinburgh Business School, Edinburgh
Essex Communications Limited, Dorset
Essex Services Ltd, Aberdeen
Equity plc, London
EuroFinance Conference Limited, London
EuroMoney Publications PLC, London
Evans & Sutherland Computer Limited, West Sussex
The Financial Times Limited, London
Finn Programmes & Cosmetics Ltd, Middlesex
GAC (UK) Limited, Gwent
GE Aircraft Engine Services Ltd, London
GEW (EC) Limited, Surrey
Glenview Ltd, County Antrim
Glenview, West London
Glenview Systems Limited, Reading
H.D.A. Forgings Ltd, Worcestershire
Heatrice, A Division of Meggitt (UK) Ltd, Dorset
Hill Price Division Limited, London



The awards logos for (from left) exports, technology and the environment

Hutton Machinery Limited, Dorset
John Marshall & Sons (Surrey) Ltd, West Yorkshire
Katharine International, South Yorkshire
Katharine International, Aberdeen
Katharine International, London
Katharine International, Northamptonshire
Katharine International, Lancashire
Katharine International, a division of Firth Tool and Valve Ltd, Fife
Katharine International, London
Katharine International, County Down
Katharine International, Somerset
The Macallan Distillers Limited, Banffshire
Macmillan Sheffield (Scotland) Ltd, Aberdeenshire
Macmillan Europe, Banffshire
Macmillan Ltd GSM Systems Division, Wiltshire
Macmillan Medical Division, Oxfordshire
Macmillan Medical, East Sussex
Macmillan Medical, London
Macmillan Medical, a division of HTV Limited, Bristol
Macmillan Medical, Devon
Macmillan Medical, Fife
Macmillan Medical, Hampshire
Macmillan Medical, Hertfordshire
Macmillan Medical, Kent
Macmillan Medical, Lancashire
Macmillan Medical, Leicestershire
Macmillan Medical, Lincolnshire
Macmillan Medical, London
Macmillan Medical, Merseyside
Macmillan Medical, Norfolk
Macmillan Medical, Northamptonshire
Macmillan Medical, North Yorkshire
Macmillan Medical, Oxfordshire
Macmillan Medical, Peterborough
Macmillan Medical, Plymouth
Macmillan Medical, Reading
Macmillan Medical, Shropshire
Macmillan Medical, South Yorkshire
Macmillan Medical, Staffordshire
Macmillan Medical, Suffolk
Macmillan Medical, Surrey
Macmillan Medical, Tyneside
Macmillan Medical, Warwickshire
Macmillan Medical, West Yorkshire
Macmillan Medical, Wiltshire
Macmillan Medical, Worcestershire
Macmillan Medical, Yorkshire

Akos Healthcare Group Ltd

AKOS QUEEN'S AWARD FOR EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT 1999

We wish to thank all our staff and clients for their continued support which has made our success possible.

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e-mail: group@akos.co.uk
www: http://www.akos.co.uk

AWARDS TO SMALL FIRMS				
Under 50 employees				
Export	34	41%	(82 Export Awards)	
Technology	5	36%	(14 Technology Awards)	
Environment	3	60%	(5 Environment Awards)	
	42	42%	(101 total Awards)	
Of which the five smallest are				
Crambeth Allen Publishing	8	(Export)		
UK Project Support Ltd	8	(Export)		
Brunton's propellers Ltd	11	(Technology)		
Corney & Barrow (Broker Services) Ltd	12	(Export)		
Esmit Process Systems Ltd	15	(Environment)		
Under 200 employees				
Export	60	73%	(82 Export Awards)	
Technology	7	50%	(14 Technology Awards)	
Environment	4	80%	(5 Environment Awards)	
	71	70%	(101 total Awards)	
Five overall largest winners are: (UK employees only)				
British Aerospace Airbus	7,577	(Export)		
Zeneca Agrochemicals	4,698	(Technology)		
Glaxo Research and Development Ltd	4,222	(Technology)		
Motorola Ltd GSM Systems Division	1,968	(Export)		
University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology	1,914	(Export)		

GlaxoWellcome

WE'VE JUST WON OUR TENTH QUEEN'S AWARD FOR TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT

Asthma patients in many countries know why

Once again we are proud to announce that Glaxo Wellcome Research and Development has won the Queen's award for Technological Achievement

This year it heralds the development of a novel dry powder inhaler which treats asthma patients in many countries

Now with a tenth award under our belts we mean to push ahead, in our continuing quest to keep people healthy all over the world

SPORT

European Cup semi-final: Comments by Juventus' benefactor appear to have aided Alex Ferguson's cause tonight

Zidane plays into United's hands

HIS VISIT lasted only 10 minutes, but a lifetime in Italian politics has certainly taught Gianni Agnelli how to use the slightest opportunity to make an impact. With a couple of throwaway remarks this week, the honorary president of Juventus seems to have done Alex Ferguson's job for him, at least in terms of psychological warfare.

As Juventus prepared to meet Manchester United in tonight's second leg of their European Cup semi-final, the 78-year-old Agnelli - the former boss of Fiat, and Italy's most influential figure for most of the post-war era - made one of his quasi-papal visits to the Stadio Comunale, the club's training centre. He talked to the coach, Carlo Ancelotti, and to the players. And, as is his way, he also gave a brief audience to the press, during which he was invited to comment on the stories circulating about the possible imminent departure of Zinedine Zidane, whose performance at Old Trafford a fortnight ago had been one of the finest of his career, but who is said to be homesick.

"He's not homesick," Agnelli said. "He's under his wife's thumb. And there's nothing I can do about it."

He may not be quite up to speed on the current state of sexual politics, but Agnelli's views on the relationship between men and women undoubtedly draw on direct experience of complexity and conflict. This is a man who, almost 50 years ago, injured himself quite badly when he crashed his Ferrari after his mistress, Pamela Churchill (later Pamela Harriman, the US ambassador to Paris), had found him in bed with another woman, also not his wife. A fluent French-speaker, he will certainly be conversant with the doctrine of "cherchez la femme", in all its senses.

Agnelli told the reporters that he had asked Zidane who was the boss in his house. "He replied, 'Since we had our two sons, it's my wife. I told him that I hoped that he would stay with us. The problem isn't Zidane. It's his wife.'"

Yesterday afternoon Zidane spoke to a reporter from L'Equipe, the French sports daily, and told him that he was upset by Agnelli's words, and by the way the whole business of a move had blown up. Last weekend, he said, he had given an interview to Italian journalists in which he reassured his sincere intention to stay in Turin until the end of next season, which marks the end of his present contract. He had woken up the following morning to find one newspaper, Turin's Tuttosport, flatly contradicting his statement with a claim that he would be leaving this summer, in a matter of weeks - probably for one of the big Spanish clubs, since his wife is of Andalusian origin, and is said to be keen to move to a city closer to the sea.

Gianni Agnelli may be the most powerful man in Italy, and Turin may have been virtually his personal fiefdom for half a century, but not even he can move the Mediterranean nearer to the city in the foothills of the Alps. What he can do is unbutton his lip, and he went further during his visit by remarking on how nice it would be to have Ronaldo in the colours of Juventus next season,

RICHARD WILLIAMS
IN TURIN

playing alongside Alessandro Del Piero.

At his time of life, and from his position of eminence, Agnelli can say just about anything he likes. He has nothing to lose, and no one to fear. He loves football and footballers, particularly those who wear the black and white shirt, but a man who has had John Charles, Omar Sivori, Pietro Anastasi, Michel Platini, Paolo Rossi and Roberto Baggio on his payroll is unlikely to bend the knee even to a man who scored two goals in the last World Cup final and is FIFA's current player of the year. He may have felt that his remarks would have a stimulating effect on Zidane, or he may just have been saying what he thinks.

It is impossible to predict what effect, if any, his words will have on the great Frenchman's performance. Until Juventus rested Zidane last Saturday for their visit to Lazio, and then

"He's not homesick," Agnelli said. "He's under his wife's thumb and there's nothing I can do about it"

went and handed out a thrashing to the league leaders, his presence had been thought every bit as indispensable to their tactical scheme as it is to that of his national team.

At Old Trafford, in the first leg of the semi-final, he took the field with his right knee heavily strapped, having tweaked a ligament three weeks earlier. Yet, although completely lacking in match practice, he went on to give a masterful display as notable for the unrelenting intensity of his physical commitment as for the artistry of his silken touch and the originality of his imagination. Goodness knows whether Agnelli's words will provoke or deaden his instinct to give a repeat performance tonight before a full house of 64,500 at the Stadio Delle Alpi. Most probably, Zidane's urgent desire to add a European Cup winner's medal to the gong he picked up in Paris last July will prevail over any topical irritation, particularly since he was on the losing side in the last two finals of the competition.

Ancelotti and his club captain, the underrated Antonio Conte, presented a serene and confident front when they shared a press conference yesterday afternoon. Without displaying a hint of arrogance, they nevertheless conveyed the impression that the harder part of the job had been done, and that a proper observance of their professional duties would

see the team through to the club's fourth consecutive European Cup final.

"This is going to be a very difficult match against extremely formidable opponents," Ancelotti said, more than once, and the thought was readily seconded by his captain, who spoke of the need for his team mates to maintain absolute concentration throughout the 90 minutes. Conte's goal at Old Trafford, the coach felt, had given them a slight advantage, but there would be no underestimating the size of the challenge presented by Alex Ferguson's men.

He paid tribute to the personal and professional qualities of the United manager, and acknowledged the depth of experience acquired by Ferguson after a dozen years at the helm of the club. It is only two months, by contrast, since Ancelotti became the 33rd man to take the coach's job at Juventus, the heir to the first man to hold the job, George Alken of Scotland, and the successor to Marcello Lippi, whose four seasons in charge featured three league titles and one European Cup before he mysteriously ran out of steam in mid-February.

Reflecting on tonight's match, Ancelotti expected the same sort of tactics from both sides that we saw at Old Trafford. "Away from home," he said, "Manchester United play with the same attitude that they show in their own stadium. The mentality doesn't change."

He dismissed the idea of profiting from the possible absence of Ryan Giggs. "We have prepared ourselves to play a team, not an individual," he said. "It won't really affect the way we approach the game."

Similarly, he refused to be drawn on the potential inclusion of Teddy Sheringham, whose surprise appearance as a substitute at Old Trafford gave United the focus that enabled them to construct Giggs's late equaliser.

Didier Deschamps, however, had already warned about the possible dangers. "Giggs is a very strong competitor," the veteran French midfielder said, "and it would be better for us if he didn't appear. He's a player who always does well against us, even if only for a few minutes in the game. And there's Sheringham, who is a phenomenon in the air, and very hard to handle. But the first leg proved that when we play the way we want, pressing them high up the field, we can give them problems. But we let them back in. So we have to play for 90 minutes the way we played for the first hour in Manchester."

Agnelli said something similar. If Juventus could play for the whole 90 minutes of tonight's game with the sort of intensity and invention that they showed in the first half in Manchester, he observed, their success would be assured. "I can't guarantee that we can keep up that sort of rhythm through a whole match," Ancelotti responded. "We hope so."

But at least the honorary president's interventions did not seem to have impaired his sense of humour. To a player, Ancelotti remarked, winning the European Cup represented the highest possible ambition. "But for a coach, it's not quite as hard as keeping your job at this club."



Zinedine Zidane played a pivotal role for Juventus in the first leg but is now upset by speculation about his future

Empics

Bayern focus on European prize

BAYERN MUNICH seek to end a decade of frustration when they face Dynamo Kiev tonight for a place in the European Cup final.

"This is the most important game for us in 10 years, even more important than the final itself, if we get there," said the Bayern general manager, Uli Hoeneß, whose men are firmly in the driving seat after snatching a 3-3 draw in the first leg in Kiev.

The Bavarians have collected plenty of domestic titles over the past few years and won the UEFA Cup in 1996, but success in Europe's showcase competition has eluded them since the last of three successive triumphs in 1976.

BY PATRICK VIGNAL
in Munich

"The European Cup is the most beautiful of all titles and the most difficult to win," said Lothar Matthäus. "We want it. It is crucial for the club's image."

Standing between Bayern and their first final since 1987 (a 2-1 defeat by Porto in Vienna) are Dynamo Kiev, who have the most exciting pair of strikers in Europe this season in Andriy Shevchenko and Serhiy Rebrov.

"The 3-3 draw gives us an advantage but we must be careful," said the Bayern coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld, aware that Kiev have already demon-

strated that they can score anywhere.

The Ukrainians, still kicking themselves for letting a 3-1 lead slip at home, are confident Rebrov can shake off the knee injury which has bothered him for a month even though the 25-year-old Ukraine international sat out Friday's 1-0 league win over Kryvybas Kryvy Rih.

Bayern, who beat Bundesliga strugglers Eintracht Frankfurt 3-1 on Friday, have worries of their own. The French defender Bixente Lizarazu and the Brazilian striker Elber both have torn knee ligaments and are unlikely to return before the end of the season, but goalkeeper Oliver Kahn, who dam-

aged a toe in a league match last week, has resumed training and will play. Hitzfeld should also be able to call on midfielder Jens Jeremies, who has had a sore thigh muscle but is back in training.

Bayern, seeking to become the first German club to win the European Cup and the domestic league and Cup in one season, are expected to field three strikers in Mario Basler, Alexander Zickler and Carsten Jancker.

"It would be a big tactical mistake to look for a goalless draw. We have to be aggressive," said Hitzfeld, who steered Borussia Dortmund to the European Cup in 1997.

Kiev relish counter-attacking and will know from the first leg, when they could have scored six, that Bayern's main weakness is their leaky defence. "We can score in Munich," said the Dynamo Kiev coach, Valery Lobanovsky. "The players know exactly what they have to do and that is to win the match. They can do it."

Homes, who knows all about winning European Cups as a member of the formidable Bayern side of the 1970s, disagrees. "If we score a goal there's no way we can lose," he said. Bayern players (probables): Kahn, Matthäus, Basler, Rebrov, Sorun, Jeremies, Effenberg, Tonn, Basler, Jancker, Zickler. Dynamo Kiev (probables): Shevchenko, Lizarazu, Golovkin, Vashchuk, Katsenka, Gudim, Rukhovich, Belkevich, Kovalev, Shevchenko, Rebrov.

Wrong again

Sir: I have read several articles (including the one in your newspaper) bemoaning the fact that Wigan Athletic beat Millwall in the final of the Auto Windscreens Shield.

I'm struck with a real sense of déjà vu. I went to Wembley in 1985 when Wigan beat Brentford under similar circumstances in the inaugural year of the Freight Rover Trophy. The national press (based in London, significantly) prejudged the game in the same manner.

Brentford were bound to win, according to every report, but it didn't go according to plan - they were soundly beaten.

This time Millwall couldn't fail, could they? After all, they'll have 45,000 fans and Wigan will shrivel and die. Apparently not. For a second

time London-based writers have underestimated the unfashionable team who are lucky to be allowed to visit Wembley with their rugby team, never mind play there.

Had the final been played at Villa Park, how many Millwall fans would have been there? Nearer 10,000 than 45,000, I'll wager.

One report said: "The Auto Windscreens Final is more for appearing in than winning." Really? I feel 45,000 gutted Millwall fans would disagree. I'm sure the press wouldn't have belittled the winners had the result gone the other way.

COLIN HOLCROFT, by e-mail.

Coors' view

Sir: I was surprised to read the letter from Carl Crook (Rix silence, 9 April) and I would like to take issue with a couple of points raised.

First, Coors are not a major sponsor of Chelsea FC - our sponsorship ended in 1997.

Second, any relationship which we have or have had with the club in no way reflects the company's position on anything other than our support for the game of football. KEN HEHIR, Commercial Director, Coors Brewing International, Richmond, Surrey.

High price

Sir: Under the Bosman ruling, football clubs have no right to buy and sell players as commodities at the expiry of their contracts. The primary effect of this has been for clubs to offer ever-higher salaries, rather than ever-higher transfer fees, to secure the services of unattached players.

However, there is a secondary, and more important effect. When a player is transferred to a club under the Bosman ruling, because there is no transfer fee involved the club can afford to pay the player a substantially higher over-

inflated wage. If, while in contract, the player then seeks a move to another club, there will be a transfer fee. More importantly, as with any other employee, the player will be reluctant to take a drop in wages.

An example of this secondary effect occurred earlier this season when Patrick Kluivert requested a transfer from Milan.

Manchester United and Arsenal were interested in buying Kluivert, but he demanded his Milan wage of £40,000 per week - a figure that was over-inflated by his previous free transfer.

Dare I suggest Steve McManaman will become the

second high-profile player to suffer the same problem.

This summer, under the Bosman ruling, McManaman will move to Real Madrid and his earnings are said to be £50,000 a week. It is questionable whether McManaman is worth a tenth of that. Football pundits have been saying he has great potential for 10 years, but it is easily to lose track of the fact that he is now 27.

It does seem ironic, then, that Kevin Keegan can pick McManaman for the England team when the player has not even been getting a place in his club team.

So will McManaman succeed in the football

cauldron of Madrid?

Probably not. But then who is going to buy him back on wages of £50,000 a week?

GARY JACOB, St Catherine's College, Oxford.

Out of line

Sir: If referee Paul Durkin, had seen Graeme Le Saux assault Robbie Fowler during the infamous bottom waving incident, Le Saux would have received an automatic three-match ban for violent conduct. Instead, he received a one-match ban while Fowler's sentence was two matches. This decision seems to imply that the FA does not

regard violent play as being as serious as verbal abuse or provocative conduct.

GERARD HUNT, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

Uefa right

Sir: Far be it for me to defend Dennis Wise, whose appalling disciplinary record speaks for itself, but Uefa have surely made the proper decision by dismissing the "biting" charge against him.

It was quite clear from the television that the Real Mallorca defender was "taking" his fingers on Wise's neck and equally obvious that the Chelsea captain bit nothing but fresh air.

The incident was yet another example of a player being tried and found guilty by television and the lower forms of the press.

TERENCE KERRIGAN, Blackheath, London.

السؤال الأول

Painful lessons of Imola heeded by Hill

A PHOTO shoot in the heart of London to launch a limited-edition Jordan Honda Civic road car and a Jordan Honda motorbike, both in the distinctive yellow livery of the Formula One car, could have been a million miles from a grand prix circuit, let alone the spectre of the sport's darkest weekend in recent times, but the memories inexorably closed in on Damon Hill yesterday.

The weekend after this, the former world champion will be at Imola for the San Marino Grand Prix, an event that will mark the fifth anniversary of

MOTOR RACING
BY DERICK ALLSOP

the deaths of Ayrton Senna and Roland Ratzenberger. Hill, who was Senna's teammate at Williams, has since been a leading agitator for improved safety standards in Formula One and is adamant that complacency must never divert the drivers or the sport's governing body, the FIA, from the campaign to save lives.

"The history will be on people's minds," Hill said. "It was a dark weekend and mercifully things have been good for us,

and the safety of cars and circuits have improved since then. There was some concern of over-reacting immediately after that race, but I think we are now getting the balance right between the thrills and excitement and the safety.

"The important thing is we still have lively discussion between the Grand Prix Drivers' Association and the FIA, and that must be continued to respect the memories of Ayrton and Roland, and any other driver who has lost his life in Formula One.

"Nothing must be brushed under the carpet. It is not

acceptable if people are hurt. I keep suggesting things and little by little, cars have become safer.

"If there were unacceptable dangers we wouldn't race, but there are still places that are riskier than we would like and we hope something will be done about that. I don't want to be specific, but usually they are the faster circuits.

"The risk should not be your life. That's not an acceptable approach now. The fear and bravery should be about performing better. Failure should be no more than embarrassment, spinning into the gravel trap and not ending up in hospital."

Hill will be concerned also about registering his first finish and first points of the season at Imola. He has been forced out of the opening two races in skirmishes with other cars, while his Jordan-Mugen-Honda teammate, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, has finished second and third.

"I've been out for a duck so far, so I'm aiming for points next week," the 38-year-old Englishman said. "But the car is good and quick, so the opportunity is there and I'm sure it will get better through the season.

"Heinz-Harald has surprised me. He seems to have dropped on the ground running. I don't

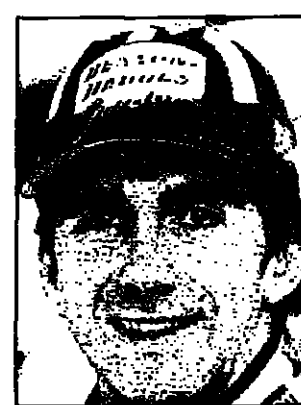
understand why that form was not apparent when he was with Williams. But Jordan is quite a different environment.

"The fact he's started so well is not a burden for me. It just sets the target for me. There's always rivalry between drivers but we're not fighting for the championship. There's no grudge. We are fighting for the team. I'm optimistic things will go well and we'll be at the front."

McLaren-Mercedes and Ferrari emerged as one and two in Brazil earlier this month but Hill does not accept third place must be the limit of Jordan's aspirations this season.

He said: "There's no reason why we shouldn't push for better than third. I think McLaren will take some beating but we could move ourselves into a position to be second. I would be disappointed if I didn't win this year. You should always aim as high as you can.

"I'm not thinking beyond this season, about retirement or anything like that. I've trained very hard for this year. Perhaps because I'm 38 and the ramp is working against me. I've trained harder to resist the natural gravity. I should be in good form and



Hill: Safety campaigner

look forward to the chance of a full race.

"My contract runs out this season so I'm aware there is a performance aspect as to what I do in the future. You can never sit back and wait for it to come to you."

South Africa choose Ford as new coach

GRAHAM FORD, the former local provincial second XI cricketer, was named as successor to the high-profile Bob Woolmer as the South African national coach yesterday.

The 38-year-old has agreed a three-year contract, ending weeks of speculation following Woolmer's decision to stand down after the World Cup in England ends in June.

"He is youthful, enthusiastic and committed," Ali Bacher, the United Cricket Board of South Africa's managing director, said yesterday. "He is a good organiser, has good people skills and has a professional approach."

Ford captained Natal B for several seasons in the 1980s but never played in top flight South African cricket. His record as a coach, however, has been outstanding. He guided Natal to a rare South African league and cup double in 1995-96 and has twice coached the South African A side on tour. He also proved popular with the players when he was assistant to Woolmer for the recent tour of New Zealand.

Woolmer, a former England Test opener, has been linked with the job as England coach in succession to David Lloyd, who has also said he will step down after the World Cup.

"I'm honoured to be following in Bob's shoes and continuing the good work he has done, although it is a huge challenge," Ford said.

Shaun Pollock, South

CRICKET
BY BRIAN MCKENNA

Africa's vice-captain and fast bowler, has played most of his first-class career at Natal under Ford's guidance and the captaincy for some years of the West Indian, Malcolm Marshall.

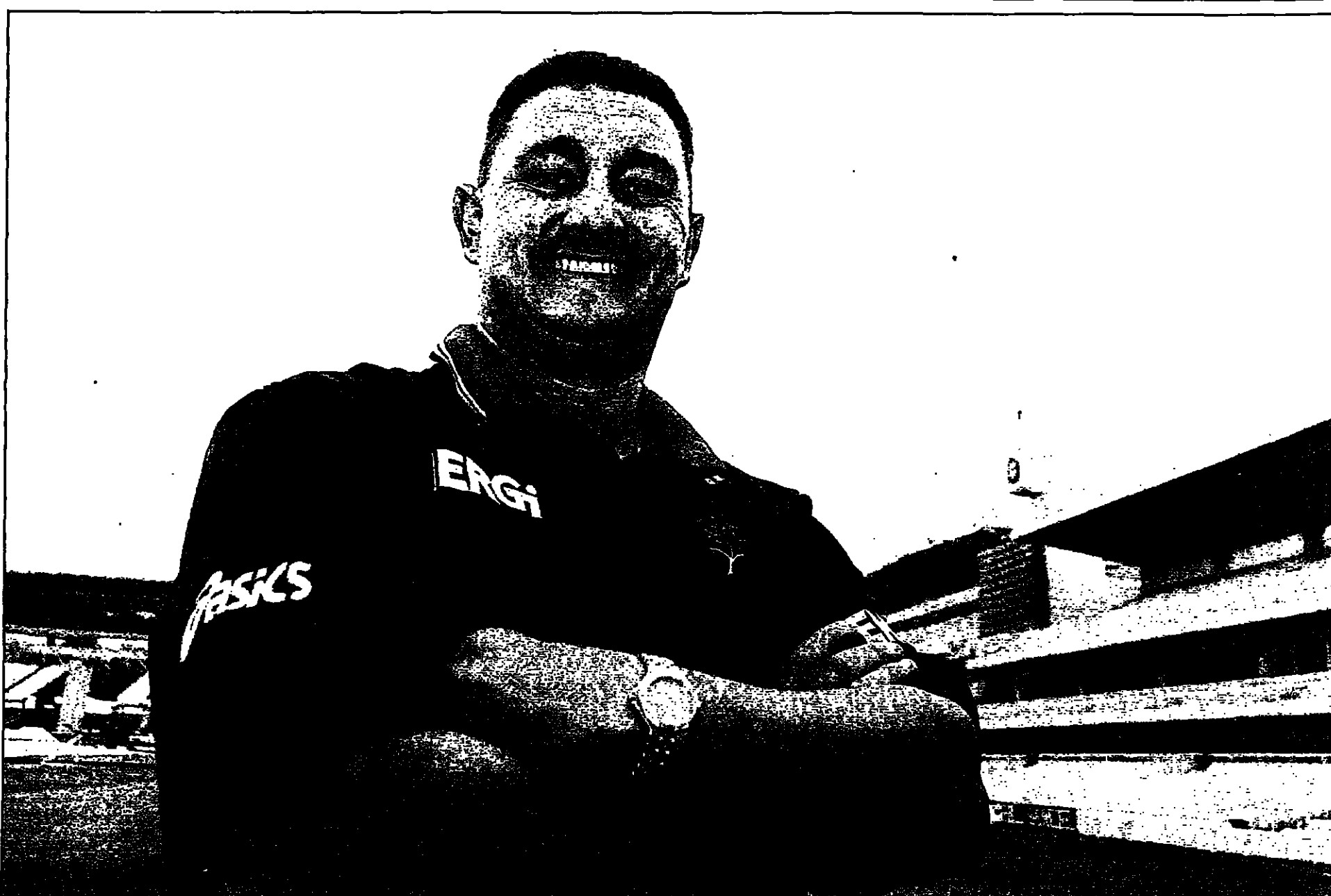
"Fordy and Malcolm took a young, inexperienced team and turned us into something special," Pollock said. "He did a brilliant job and I'm pretty certain he'll do an excellent job in charge of the national team."

The Western Province coach, Duncan Fletcher, who has a three-year contract with Glamorgan, was believed to be the UCB's first choice, but his County Championship commitments ruled him out. The former South African players, Hilton Ackerman and Peter Kirsten, both coaching at provincial level, were also considered for a post which Ford had initially said he did not want as he feared it would take him away from his family too frequently.

"We are only out of the country for five months in the next two years and the schedule isn't as bad as I thought," said Ford.

Pollock said: "Because he never played Test cricket he doesn't have any ideas that are set in stone. He listens to every problem with an open mind."

Talk Radio wins rights to England's winter tour
Page 10



Lancashire's Ian Austin keeps in a relaxed mood at Lord's yesterday as his side's Championship match against Middlesex failed to escape the rain. Craig Prentis/Allsport

Austin revels in big finish

THE ROSES match of last August proved a notable success for Lancashire in their valiant but ultimately vain attempt to catch Leicestershire at the top of the Championship table. But it was memorable for more than that. John Crawley's 180 in the first innings equalled the fourth-highest score by a Lancashire player in Roses matches; and when the 12th man, Richard Green, walked out to bat in the second innings it became the first occasion that 12 different players had batted for Lancashire in a Championship fixture.

The cause of this apparent conundrum was the surprise call-up of Ian Austin to the England side to play Sri Lanka in a one-day international at Lord's. After contributing 49 to the first innings total, Austin packed his bags, headed south and, one way or another, he has been surprising people outside of his native county ever since.

Now 33, even Austin's most ardent admirers, and probably the player himself, had long since given up on his chances of representing his county. Among those admirers was

Old Trafford's cult figure is just the sort of bowler England will need for the World Cup - a cool-headed limited-overs specialist. By Adam Szreter

Wasim Akram, his former county captain who has described Austin as "the best death bowler I have ever seen", referring to Austin's pricelessness to bowl tightly at the end of one-day matches.

Back at Lord's this week on county duty, following his stint in Sharjah with England and looking ahead to his involvement in this summer's World Cup, Austin reflected on the Pakistan captain's generous appraisal. "It's a great compliment and just a pity he wasn't an England selector a few years ago," he said. "My call-up came a bit late in the day and I know he pushed my case a couple of times before that."

That case is based on consistency and a temperament for the big occasion. After winning the Gold Award in the 1996 Benson and Hedges Cup final, Austin was last season's man of the match in the NatWest final, taking 3 for 14 from 10 overs after Wasim himself had been clat-

tered to all parts of the ground by Derbyshire's batsmen.

That achievement, allied to the following explanation, was enough to earn Austin the unlikely accolade of being named as one of Wisden's five cricketers of the year for 1998. "Nowadays, it is a rarity for someone to come along and establish a special rapport, even with his home crowd," Matthew Engel, the book's editor, wrote. "Ian Austin is an exception."

He is Lancashire to the marrow. When he succeeds there is a special cheer in the Old Trafford pavilion because they regard him as one of their own. There ought to be dozens like him, but there aren't.

Austin was born in and played

for Haslingden in the Lancashire league, following in his father's footsteps. A keen footballer and a Burnley supporter, he joined Lancashire in 1986, primarily as a batsman who could bowl, but the quality of Lancashire's batting and the relative dearth of seam talent pushed him in the other direction.

"If you do your homework then hopefully you can keep quiet and calm about it and carry on as though you've got everything under control. Looks can be quite deceiving - if a bowler appears completely in control after he's just been slapped in the stand it makes the batsman think. A lot of it is mind games."

His career as an England player has so far failed to reach the same heights as some of his performances for Lancashire. He let no one down after his belated call-up to the triangular tournament last summer

but struggled on unsuitable pitches recently in Sharjah.

If he does make the team for the World Cup, though, the fielding of a player once described as looking like "a stoker on a merchant steamer" will be scrutinised almost as much as his batting and bowling.

"It's no secret I won't be the most athletic bloke on the field," he said, "but I've got a good pair of hands and without digging myself too big a hole, I don't drop too many catches. I've got a good arm as well."

And with little more than three weeks to go before the tournament starts, surely someone as level-headed as Austin has not been dreaming of bowling the last over in the World Cup final with, say, nine runs between England and victory?

"Not recently," he said. "I probably dreamt about it as a kid. But I'll worry about that if the situation arises and I'd back myself to do it. I'm confident enough. I know what I want to do and hopefully we'd center through that, lift the World Cup and have a good night after all."

Bell ready to sign for Warwickshire

WARWICKSHIRE HAVE offered the England Under-19 batsman Ian Bell a two-year full-time contract.

The 17-year-old emerged as the star of the England Under-19 tour of New Zealand during the winter and Warwickshire have moved swiftly to head off interest from other counties. Bell intends to continue his A-level studies at Princethorpe College, near Leamington, but cricket will take priority. Bell has played for Warwickshire teams since he was nine years old and, although he was not even registered when he went to New Zealand, he is certain to commit himself to his native county.

Meanwhile, the second day of Warwickshire's County Championship match against Somerset at Edgbaston was washed out yesterday. Warwickshire had been given permission by the England and Wales Cricket Board to use the

giant Brumbella pitch cover but Somerset objected.

New regulations prevent the use of flat covers but Warwickshire were given special dispensation by John Carr, the England and Wales Cricket Board's cricket operations manager, to use it following concerns that further rain might prevent any more play in the game.

But Somerset were worried the pitch might sweat under the plastic sheeting so Warwickshire had to use conventional covering which left more than half the square exposed to the elements. Twenty-eight inches of rain fell on Edgbaston during the winter, twice the average, and with more rain forecast prospects for a prompt start today looked bleak.

The other four County Championship games - at Derby, Leicester, Lord's and Worcester - were washed out yesterday

Johnson targets return in Sydney Tait eyes grand slam

BEN JOHNSON'S hopes of competing at another Olympic Games rose yesterday when a Canadian judge ruled that he should be reinstated following his life ban for doping. Athletics Canada, the country's ruling body, will now support the 38-year-old sprinter in an unprecedented appeal to the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

Graham Mew, the Canadian adjudicator, ruled that Johnson - infamously stripped of his 1988 Olympic title for steroid abuse - should be allowed to return because there had been procedural errors in the case which saw him banned from the sport for good in 1993.

Mew said Athletics Canada had "inadvertently failed" to comply with IAAF rules in that it had misinformed Johnson

DRUGS IN SPORT
BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM

over the type of hearing he was entitled to following the IAAF doping commission's decision to ban him. He added that the Canadian body had "not adequately informed" Johnson over his procedural options.

The ruling, however, does not

mean Johnson will be competing on an organised level in Canada or abroad just yet. It also does not vindicate the athlete over the drug test in Montreal. "I'm very happy but I don't have time to jump around and celebrate," Johnson said. "I still can't compete and we still have some things to do."

Johnson returned to the sport after serving a two-year ban in the wake of the 1988 Olympics and reached the 100 metres semi-finals at the 1992 Games in Barcelona. But a year later he tested positive for steroids once again, thus incurring an automatic life ban. Johnson's case will have to proceed without a hitch if his Olympic ambition of running at next year's Olympics in Sydney is to be achieved.

Giorgio Reineri, spokesman for the IAAF, said the case was unlikely to be considered by the IAAF Council until November. He said he could not anticipate the IAAF's view of a case which contained a number of "juridical problems". Even if Johnson's request were granted there would have to be a period of at least six months in which he could undergo tests before any return to competition.

Reineri said that Athletics Canada, which has done much in the last 10 years to clamp down on doping abuse, was legally bound by the adjudicator's judgment.

Johnson's winning time of 9.79sec in Seoul 11 years ago has never been bettered, but if his campaign to return is successful he is unlikely to bother many of today's leading sprinters.

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BLATH TAIT would add an extra dimension to next month's Mitsubishi Badminton Horse Trials if he were to win the Rolex Kentucky Three-Day Event on Aspyring this weekend. The New Zealander won Burghley last year which, together with Kentucky and Badminton, offers a grand slam prize of nearly £160,000 to any rider who wins all three contests.

This will be the 50th anniversary for Badminton, which runs from 6 to 9 May. The Queen, who last attended the event in 1982, will be back to present the prizes on the final day. As always, there will be a high-class field, with seven of the top ten horses at last year's World Equestrian Games among the expected starters. Tait on Ready Teddy and the other brilliant Kiwi pair, Mark Todd on

long wait before he partners Arakai, who is second last of 91 horses in the draw. These are likely to reduce to between 75 and 80 by the time of the event.

Hugh Thomas, director and course designer, has prepared a serious cross-country challenge. The daunting obstacles include The Challenger Bank (fence 15), where Ready Teddy fell last year, and a double of roll-top fences into water followed by another on a jetty at The Lake (18 and 19).

When they walk the four and a quarter mile course, riders will also be paying close attention to The Shogun Hollow (21), which has tree trunks on either side of steeply sloping banks down to a ditch, and The Quarry (24), where there are two more trunks and a sizeable drop to be taken.

EQUESTRIANISM
BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY

Broadcast News, will renew their rivalry having filled the top two places in the World Games. Tait won on that occasion but, under the new scoring system which comes into effect this year, Todd would have been the victor. The scoring is intended to be simpler, but it is bound to cause some confusion until everyone gets to grips with the new rules. They will have the effect of making the show jumping less influential, which is a cause of concern for Tait and some other riders.

Ian Stark will be first to attack the 29 cross-country fences when he rides Jaybee, the first of his two mounts at Badminton. The Scot will then have

ANGER, BITTERNESS, frustration, perhaps a rogue or two trying to spin a yarn, and even an unfattering write-up in *The Sun* — it is all part of the job for Chris "Keefie" He has a perch 19 floors off the ground in Casey Wainwright's skyscraper but O'Keefe, who runs the Independent Betting Arbitration Service (IBAS), spends his time mining at what he calls "the coalface" of Britain's gambling industry. If you think that a bookie has done you wrong, it is IBAS that will try to sort them out.

It is six months since IBAS was launched, at a press conference which did not go swimmingly. The assembled journalists chewed up and then spat out O'Keefe's boss, when they heard that the names of IBAS's panel members - who would adjudicate on betting disputes - were to be kept secret. The decision was reversed, but not in time to rescue the coverage in the next day's papers.

In the time since, though, O'Keefe and his two staff have been quietly working to get the first worthwhile attempt to provide fair, impartial arbitration in betting disputes off the ground. The vast majority of the country's 9,000 betting shops are now registered with IBAS, and displaying its blue logo to

advertise the fact. Forms from disgruntled punters, applying for arbitration, arrive at the rate of about 20 each week, and by yesterday, the panel had given a final adjudication on 158 disputes. Of these, 130 were in favour of the bookmaker, and 28 found for the punter.

It has been a slog to get this far, but not everyone has been impressed. When early figures indicated 80 per cent of judgments were coming down in favour of the bookies, *The Sun* published a denunciation of the service. The fact IBAS is run by *Mirror Group Newspapers* may have had something to do with the article's tone.

It was a low blow, given that so many punters read *The Sun*. "We took a lot of calls afterwards," O'Keefe says, "people saying that they understood now that we're just interested in bookmaker protection. I took it personally because it was an insult to my integrity and that of everyone who works here. We'd be quite happy for anyone to come along and take a look at what we're doing here. That was damaging and cheap."

In fact, it is surprising that even 20 per cent of IBAS's decisions are in favour of punters, since bookmakers are unlikely to go as far as arbitration un-

less they think they have a very solid case. But regardless of the figures, the important point is that punters, who for so long had no worthwhile consumer protection at all, now have a visible, professionally-run organisation to which they can turn if the need arises.

What went before was little better than anarchy. The Green Seal Service, run by *The Sporting Life* (now defunct), was an ad-hoc collection of *Life* journalists, sometimes simply the ones with nothing better to do for an hour. It was anonymous and capricious, and could sometimes pass judgement on a dispute without even con-

Now, IBAS makes sure both sides have their say, although as O'Keefe admits, "it is a unique industry, and there are a lot of primitive practices on both sides".

Bookmakers who apply to register with IBAS, for instance, must submit a copy of their rules. Some, he found, did not actually have any rules of their own. "People say to me, 'I operate under William Hill's rules, but what they mean is that they'll operate under Hills' rules when it suits them, and someone else's when it doesn't'."

One of the most valuable



Chris O'Keeffe yesterday:

results of IBAS's work so far is a growing database of betting-related disputes, which offers an intriguing insight into the nature of the British punter. The sheer complexity of some bets is baffling, meticulously-constructed card-castles of hope involving a dozen or more elements.

The traditional mad rush to the betting window just before a race starts also leaves many people disappointed. O'Keeffe spends plenty of time explaining to people that bets placed

once the "off-slip" has been through the machine are void. He is also amazed by the number of punters "who have £500 bets but with instructions that are completely ambiguous," but also annoyed that bookies are often too quick to resort to an excuse that a price or bet they have accepted is a "palpable error", which relieves them of the need to pay out.

Problems arise too with football coupons, bets on unnamed favourites, the 49s numbers game, indeed just about any-

ready to compromise more on something on which it is possible to risk £10. Eventually, O'Keefe hopes to head off some disputes before they arise, by showing bookmakers where there are gaps in their rules, or particular problems with the processing of certain bets.

"We're not going to change things overnight, but we will change things," he says. "Bookmakers have got to realise that these people are not just punters, they're consumers. This umbrella, 'palpable error' wouldn't be accepted by any

other group of consumers. The bookies have got to be ready to compromise more."

IBAS is not perfect. For one thing, its decisions are not legally binding, although a bookie who refuses to abide by a verdict will be struck off the list. But if you think that you're on a winner, and your bookie tells you otherwise, there is now something you can do about the dispute which is far more practical than simply moaning to anyone who will listen down at the pub.

RICHARD DUNWOODY will ride **Naithen Lad** in Saturday's **Whitbread Gold Cup** at **Sandown** for the trainer **Jenny Pitman** who retires at the end of the **National Hunt** season. **Dunwoody** has ridden the 10-year-old on three of his five outings this season.

As the likelihood of **sophistication** at **Sandown** increases, the odds of the fast-ground specialist **Baronet (Richard Johnson booked)** were yesterday eased from 7-1 to 8-1 by **William Hill**. The same firm trimmed the **Oliver Sturwood-trained Calise Bay** from 25-1 to 20-1.

Mouse Morris yesterday gave **Boys Doyle** the go-ahead to run. He reported the gelding in "terrific form" after pailing muscles when last seen out in the

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Lucky Master
(Perth 2.20)
NB: Kinnescash
(Epsom 3.10)

Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown in February. Boss Doyle (11st 2lb) is 10-1 for the Whitebread by Ladbrokes. Morris said: "He will run and Shay Barry rides. The ground is a factor — they say at worst it will be good at Sandown and that is what he wants. I would have preferred him to have under 11st. But 2lb won't stop him. His first two races this term were good and he ran a good race in the Hennessy at Newbury. Then we had a bug in the yard and last time at Leopardstown he pulled muscles in his back. He's been off since but seems in form. He has had a couple of racecourse schools and jumped super."

■ There are Jackpot and Placepot carryovers of £178,833 and £10,253.78 to Exponet today.

EPSON
2.05: The locally-trained **THE FUGATIVE**, who is twice a course and distance winner, had a pipe-opener on the all-weather this month and should have the softish ground she needs to be seen at her best. **Stylish Ways** made a promising comeback at Newmarket last week, but will be at a relatively short price in what is a rather tricky handicap. The well-drawn **Ron's Pet** (who is blinkered for the first time

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

today) is well handicapped on his best form and has won twice on the all-weather since joining that astute trainer, Karl Burke. Halmanerror was having his first outing since July when a promising second to Indian Blaze at Folkestone last month, but his stable is still out of form.

2.35: The Classic entries **DALIAPOUR** (2,000 Guineas and Derby) and **Lightning Arrow** (Derby) should dominate. Overnight rain could make the going ideal for Daliapour, beaten around a length by Boatman at Newbury in September. He slammed Roger Charlton's colt by eight lengths in a rematch on soft ground at Ascot the following month on 5lb better terms. Trio, now with Nigel Hamilton, is held by Daliapour on last season's form.

3.10: As he is much more effective at 1m4f than 1m2f, it was a highly promising performance from NAUTICAL STAR to be beaten just seven lengths over the shorter distance when finishing seventh of 20 in the highly-competitive Rosebery Handicap at Kempton 16 days ago. A bold show looks guaranteed this afternoon, and he can out-point both the recent Newmarket winner Minivet and Kieren Fallon's mount Red Ramona.

3.45: FAHS can register a an early success for new trainer Nigel Hamilton. Well treated on his third to **Shadoff** over this course and distance last June, Fahs catches the eye at the morning prices and looks good value to take a competitive contest in which **Dower House** and **Zurs** are just two of the dangers. **Dower House** should go well, having run the winner. **Shiva**, to 2½ lengths in the Earl Of Sefton at the Craven meeting.

Stylized Wags	5-1	7-2	8-3	4-2	6-2
Blondie Lane	8-1	8-1	8-1	7-1	7-1
Twice As Strong	6-1	7-1	8-1	7-1	7-1
Holmesmore	12-1	12-1	12-1	8-1	9-1
Jaymex	1-1	7-1	10-1	12-1	12-1
Jermelle	1-1	12-1	12-1	5-1	12-1
White Envy	12-1	2-1	5-1	7-1	8-1
Cartan	14-1	12-1	14-1	14-1	14-1
The Fugitive	2-1	12-1	12-1	14-1	2-1
Ivory Dawn	2-1	1-1	14-1	16-1	14-1
Rian's Pet	16-1	14-1	16-1	16-1	12-1
Clap Of Silver	1-1	16-1	14-1	14-1	14-1
Alpen Wolf	20-1	20-1	14-1	24-1	20-1
Poodle Time	24-1	24-1	8-1	20-1	24-1
Maple	22-1	25-1	22-1	26-1	25-1
English Lady	6-1	6-1	8-1	6-1	6-1

Each way, a quarter the odds, places 1, 2 & 3.

Minchew	9-2	9-2	4-1	9-2	9-2
Red Ramona	9-1	4-1	4-1	9-2	9-2
Montecarlo	15-2	7-1	13-2	7-1	7-1
Konnewitz	7-1	15-2	7-1	8-1	7-1
Norfolk Star	8-1	8-1	8-1	7-1	7-1
Zahel	7-1	6-1	6-1	6-1	6-1
Alfa Fella	11-1	8-1	13-1	13-1	13-1
Banbury	1-1	14-1	12-1	1-1	1-1
Dorrmuller	14-1	14-1	12-1	12-1	12-1
Random Xpress	3-1	29-1	29-1	29-1	29-1
Prince Kinship	22-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
Royal	2-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1
White Plains	3-1	3-1	3-1	3-1	3-1

Each way, a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3

C. Coak, H. Wilson III, L. Lindros, S. Stanley, T. Ellis

Dance House	5-1	7-1	8-1	6-4	7-1
Zanz	7-4	7-1	6-1	7-4	7-1
Kenners	7-4	5-1	6-1	15-2	6-1
Pickens	6-1	7-1	8-1	7-4	8-1
Chief Gambler	10-1	7-1	9-1	8-1	7-1
Another Time	11-1	9-1	11-1	9-1	9-1
Robinson	11-1	9-1	11-1	9-1	9-1
Dancing Pitman	8-1	16-1	12-1	11-1	12-1
Felix	14-1	14-1	12-1	14-1	14-1
Royal Amante	12-1	14-1	14-1	12-1	12-1
Slit As A Parrot	12-1	14-1	11-1	13-1	12-1
Pollster	12-1	16-1	9-1	10-1	8-1
Shadford	20-1	16-1	9-1	16-1	16-1
Estimate	20-1	33-1	25-1	33-1	25-1

Each-way: a quarternote odd, places 1, 2, 3

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EPSON

HYPERION

2.05 The Fugative	3.45 Fahs
2.35 Dallapour	4.15 Border Prince
3.10 Nautical Star	4.45 Callidat Seventeen

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places). **STALLS:** 41 - outside; 31 1/2 - centre; remainder - inside. **DRAW ADVANTAGE:** High best 5f: Low from 6f to 10f.

■ Left-hand course, sharp and undulating. The straight 5f is the fastest in the country. Course 5 is 6f to 7f. 10m from the finish a series of short, narrow railway stations serve the train. Epson, from Victoria station, is the nearest. **ESZOM:** Dances (Victoria) and Tattenham Common (Charing Cross and Victoria). **ADMISSION:** Members 1/6 (16 to 25-year-olds free all); Grandstand & Paddock 2/6; Londonale Enclosure 5s. Accompanied under-16s free all. **BAR:** PADING. Free parking available.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

■ **LEADING TRAINERS:** R. Hannon 13-17 (17.2%), J. Dunlop 11-37 (28.7%), M. Johnson 10-38 (25.6%), P. Colin 10-38 (17.2%), H. Cecil 5-17 (20.2%), D. Elsworth 5-22 (22.7%), H. Leasing 4-20 (21.4%), P. H. Eddery 10-17 (20.9%), S. Sanders 3-5 (17.7%), K. Fallon 10-24 (22.7%), L. Dettmer 8-54 (14.6%), D. Jones 8-11 (8.9%), J. Quinn 8-16 (8.9%).

■ **FAVOURITES:** 9 winners from 20 races (overall net 33.3%).

■ **TOP TRAP:** J. Beysmore 1-10 (10.0%), R. Port 2 (2.0), White Plains 3 (3.0), Royal Amaretto 3 (3.0), Mac's Dream 4 (4.0).

■ **BLINKERED FIRST TIME:** R. Port 2 (2.0).

2.35	BLUE RIBBON TRAIL STAKES (CLASS B)	C4
	\$14,000 added 3YO 1m 21 fms £8,357	
1	6201- DALLAPOUR (18) (H Agt) L Cumans 9 fms	G Moore 4 105
2	6321- LIGHTNING ARROW (25A) (7f) (Walc) Sec 1 Daring 9 fms	R Fallon 2 107
3	45436- DANCING DANCER (17) (Searles) Cumans 9 fms	R Milman 2 108
4	24- HAVESITUS (18) (Shah) Mohammed Oud Al Madouni 9 fms	G Hind 3 106
5	03043- TROD (16) (City Industrial Supplies Ltd N Hamilton 8 fms)	S Sanders 1 96
S declared -	
BETTING: 11-10 Lightening Arrow, 5-4 Dallapour, 10-11 Dancing Dancer, 12-1 Tiro, 20-1 Havesitus SPONS: The Glen-Horn 3 8 12 m Hills 11-8 fms 10 fms (2) Hills (own) 5 fms		
FORM GUIDE		
Dallapour: Made all to win maiden event at Chestnut (7m, good to firm) and Listed race at Ascot (7m, soft) last season. Brood to stay further and entered in 2000 Guineas and Epsom Derby.		
Lightning Arrow: Runner-up in maidens at Kempton and York before winning conditions event early at Newmarket (7m, good to soft) in October. Entered in Derby and will be suited by this extra two furlongs.		
Dancing Dancer: Consistent and genuine 2yo. Showed he stays the trip on final coming when 5/6 to Adrian in listed event at Newmarket (10f, soft) in October. Will have to improve to figure on the grass, however.		
Havesitus: Did not race on debut at Chester (7f, good) last season and not up to this class by the 4th of 5 to 5. Shared on second at Kempton (10f, good) this morning.		

3.45	CITY AND SUBURBAN HANDICAP (CLASS B)	C4
	\$15,000 added 1m 21 Bysds 1E0,553	
1	00350- ROMANAMARETTO (6) (C) (Hqman Parnswing) B Estabroo 10.5 W P/O'Connor 12 39	
2	00270- DANCING PHANTOM (6) (C) (B Sargm) W Estabroo 4 10.0 W Pat O'Day 13 39	
3	00344- POWER HOUSE (7) (C2) (Lard Howard De Walden) W Jarvis 49 12. W Flynn 11 39	
4	00395- PUZZLE (16) (C) (C) (Robert Hanson) W Estabroo 4 9.7 W P/O'Connor 11 35	
	m16 ESPIRAL (204) (C2) (Hqman Parnswing) W Estabroo 4 10.7 W Patton 4 100	
5	00005- ANOTHER TIME (11) (C) (W P Jackson) S Woods 7 9.1 W Marten O'Neill 4 14	
6	00200- SHADOFF (20) (C) (D Berrman) W Mear 5 8.3 W Marten O'Neill 9 05	
7	00030- SICK AS A PHROGOT (22) (First Class Melodie C Dwyer 4 8 ft. W J Wanner 10 10	
8	00184- WESTERN (10) (C) (Hqman Parnswing) W Estabroo 4 10.7 W Patton 4 100	
9	00195- ROCKFANT (205) (C) (Frazier Miller) J Alkhus 4 8.5 W Sanders 5 103	
10	44652- CHICK CASHIER (25) (C) (Surgical Spence) G Bading 4 8.1 W Dabney 10 109	
11	00200- PHILISTIN (13) (C) (C) (Rigel Sheldin) B Burke 5 11. W O'Brien 7 05	
12	00382- FURS (152) (C) (C) (Hqman Parnswing) W Estabroo 4 10.7 W Patton 4 100	
13	00242- RAUS (20) (C) (Chris Simons) J Ryan 5 7 7.2 W Muller 20 2104	
	14- declared	
BETTING: 5-1 Dancer House, 3-1 Putnam, 2-1 Chris Cashier, 10-1 Another Time, Robott, 10-1 Dancing Phantom, Sick As A Phrog, 14-1 Furs, Royal Amaretto, 15-1 Philistat, Shadoff, 20-1 Espiral.		
1998: Western 2-1 Sprake 20-1 B (Milman) drom 15 16m		

Victory Star: Soviet Star gelding out of a Storm Bird mare. Stable have gone 6 months without a winner.
Willow: Little sign of ability over 5f and 6f last season. Could improve for longer trip, but border races for over 6 months.
First Prince: Improved run 2nd last season when 6th in Newmarket (7m, good to firm). Confirmed that promise when 2nd to Surprise Encounter at Kempton (7f, good to firm) with Neptune 10th and should go close.
Greenstone: Versatile. Mixed record. 1st place on only 6th outling last season when 7th of 8 to Lutan at Newmarket (6f, good). In July. Should be better in time.
High Holidays: Easy in market (25-1 to 33-1) when promising 3rd of 12 to Swan Knight at Newmarket (7m, good) last week. Led inside first furlong and has ideal low draw.
Leaves Hall-brother: several winners, given quiet introduction when 6th of 8m on only 6th outling last season at Leicester (7f, soft) in April. May need further, but Dettson brother significant.
Neptune: Started slowly and never reached leaders when 10th of 12 to Surprise Encounter on debut at Kempton (7f, good to firm) this month.
Sale Slinger: Showed promise on both outings last season over 7f on soft ground. Looks the best to do better in his 2nd season.
Greenstone 2: 2nd in Salisbury (7f, good) maiden in September and failed to handle the testing conditions when 4th of 6 to Olsson at (M, heavy) in October. Sure to win a maiden event, but high draw a disadvantage.
Lynette: No promise in 7f maidens at Kempton last season and on reappearance at Leicester this month.
Tick N' Pick: Showed a little ability in 3 on outings on turf for 2nd Epsom last season. Sold for only 140Guineas and one paced 3rd of 8 A/W at Lingfield (7f) in February on first run for 200Guineas.

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m2nd; good to soft) before 12 lengths seventh of 10 in m4th Group 2 at Royal Ascot.
Dowder House: Led line in C&D handicaps (good to soft; 38 higher) during June. Not seen after 1st. **Verdict:** Very good form, but not good enough to win.
Putnam: Ran mostly in flat races as a jay, winning at Newbury (m2nd, soft) Last of 12 and 6th of 15 in two handicaps (soft to 38s) higher than last two outings.
Dowder House: Led line in C&D handicaps (good to soft; 38 higher) during June. Not seen after 1st. **Verdict:** Very good form, but not good enough to win.
Weil: won last 2 in 1897, but well beaten only start in 1898. Well held on debut for new yard over hurdles.
Another Time: Best at 12m. Won 12/20000 Handicap at Ascot in June by head. 26 higher than last time. **Verdict:** Good form, but not good enough to win.
Shadow: Improved last May prospects, winning decent handicap over 1m2 at Redcar and Epsom. 38s higher today. Places prospective, at least. If he is fit for this reappearance.
Dowder House: Led line in C&D handicaps (good to soft; 38 higher) during June. Not seen after 1st. **Verdict:** Very good form, but not good enough to win.
Last August, and ran very well in AW last race at Lingfield on second 1899 start.
Kewaris: Won the race (soft) last time out 12 months ago by 3 lengths. 16 lower today than last time. **Verdict:** Good form, but not good enough to win.
Robarant: Went badly the wrong way as 3yo (for John Dunlop) before a revival last two starts, winning at Brighton (m2nd, good). Poor efforts last two hurdles outings.
Dowder House: Led line in C&D handicaps (good to soft; 38 higher) during June. Not seen after 1st. **Verdict:** Very good form, but not good enough to win.
7 off 16s 46s higher mark to Norrholz Jay at Warrick on Flat reappearance.
Piffart: 5th winner here last June off this mark. One good effort over 1m2 on Lingfield last time. **Verdict:** Good form, but not good enough to win.
Faire: Thrd over C&D last June off 86, and is off 73 today. That fall in the weights does not reflect a marked decline, though, and he won on AW final start for Geoff Lewis.
Dowder House: Led line in C&D handicaps (good to soft; 38 higher) during June. Not seen after 1st. **Verdict:** Very good form, but not good enough to win.
Dorchester (m1): Electiveness at 1m2f shown by Salisbury win (soft) in October.
VERDICT: Plenty make appeal, with Dowder House and Zuns catching the eye with good efforts last time out. Both have good form over C&D to their names as well, and that comment also applies to Faive and KEWARIAS who are also very well handled, Fans in

War Baby: Kuster had a tricky ride (tummy strain) when last of 12 on debut at Kempton (77, good time). This month, he may be a long term prospect as she is a half-sister to the stayer Double Verdict.

VERDICT: Kuster looks one to keep an eye on after shaping well on his only start last season, though the race was against him. Border Prince should not be far away after his half length second at Kempton, but Richard Hannam has struck form recently and HIGH HOYLAND may be able to make it from the low draw.

4.45 RAC CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS E) £6,000 added 1m 114yds Penalty Value £2,438

1	00-01	BOLDS BROW (12) (B) and C J Pennick G J Moore 7 9 2	R Bristol (7) S B
2	00-01	STOOP ORIENTAL (16) (H) (Bosworth Bloodstock) J Hays 5 9 8	P Powells (7) 10
3	00-01	THE SHAVENED (10) (B) (Bosworth Bloodstock) R A Shillington R Charlton 4 8 8	W Wiggins (2) 12
4	00-00	B E (18) (H) (John Hedgesburg) G J Moore 4 9 8	T Quinn 4
5	00-00	NORTHERN SUN (104) (H) J Humphrys T Hargrave R Hays 5 9 8	T Hargrave 4
6	00-01	THE JURY (5) S 5 9 8	W Wiggins (2) 12
7	00-00	ELBA MIGHTY (13) (G) 4 9 8	D Jones (2) 6
8	00-00	ELBA MIGHTY (13) (G) 4 9 8	D Jones (2) 6
9	00-00	PELO MO FEAR (19) (Antonia Rowe & Franco Cammell M Salmson 6 9 5)	P McCabe (11)
10	00-00	KINGSBOLD BLAZE (21) (H) (Kingsley P O'Sullivan M Hynes 4 9 5)	A Clark 7
11	00-00	THE SARABAND (16) (H) (Bosworth Bloodstock) R Hargram 4 9 5	N Postford (2) 13
12	00-00	CALDING SEVENTEEN (18) (Kean Hedgesburg) P Dickey 3 9 5	D Jones (2) 6
13	00-01	FULL ECLIPSE (167) (H) (Hassallway W Hedgesburg 3 8 7)	L Dailford 8
14	00-00	VALLENTINE (20) (H) (Frank S B Chappin S Chappin 3 8 7)	N Collins (5) 5
15	00-01	THEY (20) (Lori Hannam) J Hays 3 8 6	Martin Dwyer 2
16	20-00	WOORE LASS (18) (Arm Judd) R Hannam 3 8 4	Don O'Neill 1

15 declared -

[illegible]

FORM GUIDE

Zetia: Desportingbourne baroness at Goodwood (£260,000) and Varmouth last summer '76 higher now after easily making all in four-year class dominated at Turf (m4), good.

Nautical Star: 33% higher than when C&W winner (good) in firm at amateurs event in August. Promising long over inadequate trip at Kempton 16 days ago. As you can see, it's not a horse to bet on.

Rosario: Returned after 18 months' absence from racing in 1976, but has been in form since, including over C&W (soft) in September, 33% higher than when at Ascot on 2nd event at Ascot (m4), note.

Red Ransome: New Follies made them (m4), good in form. Best effort for Roger Charlton when fourth off this mark to Robin Lane at Ascot (m4), 33%, hampered in the November Handicap.

Bentley: Injury problems for Mark Johnson last time. Reliable at 1m10 on AW for new form, winning by 10 lengths at Sandown, 10 days before his last start. He was in good luck at the last two meetings. Really fit, form 3 m13 in last season. Very good in form, but he has been in form, and second in m4 Handicap at Wolverhampton (33% higher here), 3 months off and back in last time.

Melrose: Comes a 5% penalty for his 3-length win over Rainbow Ways in a 3-runner race at Newmarket (m4), good, last Wednesday. Looks sure to figure prominently again.

Dorsetshire: Consistent handicapper, off the mark, when in frame late five starts last season, from 2m to 2m on a round course. His last three runs have resulted, respectively, over £100,000 on the track. Price: Rated only on AW last time, Newmarket, 10 days before his last start. The best is at 1m12 and he was well beaten in two competitive handicaps back on turf last time.

Phoebe Kinsale: Inconsistent in his four starts in 1977 but was a 33-1 winner of the race (good or firm) first time out, 10 days here. Without a case in point for 495 days.

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FORM GUIDE

Shoppers Brent: Won at Goodwood (7m, good to firm) last May. Mostly ran creditably at-terwards but first win since when he was a yearling. Handicaps on Longfield AW this month.

Longfield (7m, AW) in December. Below form twice since. Not one to rely on.

Shoppers Sharn: Four starts for Lord Huntingdon, mid-division in three maidens on turf but first winning one on 12/12/94. Good to firm on 1/25/95 but then a long time without a win.

Shoppers Pakestone: Maiden (7, heavy) on 1/28/95, behind in 5/2c handicap there last in handicaps after (for Barry Hill) but ran one of his better races. Shown well below form from 1/28/95 on. Comparable form to these rivals at his best, but mostly only one from 11m: Disappointing as 3yo apart from when there was AW in January. Big drop in run from 11m. Header handsome and nearly all his races have been at Goodwood (7, good).

Shoppers Pake: Very reliable in 11m/12c handicaps last season. Fourth of 14 to trip into Leicester City last season. Suggested that he should be back to form again very soon.

Shoppers Pake: Runner-up three times in 11m/12c handicaps last season for Rod Simpson at 7/7m, but off 56 last time. Handicaps have had a pretty stiff test.

Shoppers Blazer: Another who would be far bit better off in a handicap. Unimproved, though, after 5/2c start at 11m/12c on 12/2/94.

Shoppers Pake: Promising 6th of 17 to go in 12c handicap at Doncaster (7m, good to soft), but only tenth of 14 at Leicester (7m, good) 3 days later. Last start at Doncaster (7m, good to soft), but December: 5-1 from 12-1, easily won 5-runner Longfield AW on 1/1/95 on his best ridden by 12-1. Good to firm last season. Suggested that he should be back to form again. Again Full Equine: Second 3yo from 12-1 on 1/1/95 when 7m of 10 in Kempton Handicap.

and Windsor (Lk) good to firm. Acts on soft ground, but no show on reappearance behind Peaseon Ck Lake at Kempton (61, 65) good.

Useful handicapper: won off a 7lb lower mark at Salisbury (75 good to soft) in June. Promising reappearance on first outing since April when 1st 2nd to Indian Blaze at Folkestone (71, soft) last month, but stable out of form.

English Lady: Maiden handicapper, placed once from 13 outings. Returns to 61 after appearing not to stay 1st on AW at Lingfield in February. Unlikely to see her losing run here.

VERDICT: Burke for the first time, plus a low draw should give RONE'S PET a chance with opposition. Next Chelmsford a bonus. Successful bet on the all-weather once joining Karl Barker. RONE'S PET is on a 15lb lower mark than he started last Flat season on.

Verdict: The lightly-raced Red Remona has potential for significant improvement this season and is of great interest, as is progressive hurdler Kilmessach and the classy Zafar. G&J winner Lush was out on medical time, but his reappearance, particularly for last-time-out promise if he is possible to be the comfortable Newmarket winner BENVINET.

Calys Heals: Always behind and a 33-1 chance on belated debut on the AW at Longfield (1m) in January when 5th of 8 to Ar Et Estern.
Chal-Hoo: Winning hurdle, no show on his only Flat outing last year, but far effort when 2nd in 1m conditions event at Ascot (heavily) in 1997. Overnight ran will help, but likely to be out-paced.
Mile's Dream: Poor form in maidens, handicaps and on AW last season (trained by Jeremy Noseda until July). Behind after 44 when last of 16 on reappearance at Windsor (7m, good) this month.
Soho Torment: Showed a little promise on his debut when 5th of 13 to Sure Dancer at Leicester (9f, good) this month, but she looks more competitive.

Hound Ventures: Has run in four maiden races, finishing with step ups to 6.5f at Goodwood (7), 8f at Newbury (9) and 6f at Sandown (10). She has also won at 6f at Goodwood (6f, good to soft) second time out on three occasions but also lost by 1.5f at Sandown (6f, good to soft) and 1.5f at Sandown (6f, heavy) last stay.

Greville: Won 8.5f maiden on Wolverhampton A/M in March, but lost on two turf runs, in mid-season for maiden at Warrmouth and Warwick handicaps; both on soft ground.

Weore Lass: Lost her form at 2yo, but black-to-best fourth of 9 in Nottingham handicap (m/f) good to softy 18 days ago. Good chance on this, but may need further

VERDICT: With Weore Lass showing up her reappearance as if she now requires a longer trip than this, the form choice is **PALACE OF THE SARRAH** who ran well at Doncaster last month. However, with her one race to go, it would be a pity to see SARAH start against some potential in Catford Seventeen and Full Eighties, and there are two opponents worth watching.

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Richmond chase European jackpot

AS RECENTLY as three and a half weeks ago, a Wednesday night mid-table match between Newcastle and Richmond at wet and windy Kingston Park would have generated about as much excitement as a William Hague rally in the Rhonda.

That was then. The European Cup accord hammered out in Paris late last month guarantees that tonight's match will send pulses racing, pacemakers ticking out of control and Premiership passions soaring to previously unexpected heights.

The Tigers of Leicester may already have one paw on the trophy, but the fusi and games will go down to the wire.

Both Newcastle, eighth in the table, and Richmond, one place further back, are ready to fight tooth and nail for a top six finish and a seat on the European gravy train. John Kingston, the Londoners' coach, has taken to playing down that ambition in public - "I don't expect us to make Europe, so we are just going to relax and enjoy ourselves," he said yesterday - but no one believes a word of it; more than

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWITT

any top-flight club in English rugby, Richmond could use the £500,000 or so expected to bolster the bank accounts of those who qualify for next season's elite 24-team competition.

With Leicester and Northampton certain to make the cut, seven sides - London Irish, Bath, Wasps, Saracens, Harlequins and tonight's combatants - are effectively chasing four places; remarkably tonight's little tête-à-tête in the North-east is only the first of 10 matches between the direct contenders scheduled for the remaining 26 days of the campaign. "It's certainly too early to call the European outcome; there are so many key games between the main players still to come," pointed out Rob Andrew, Newcastle's chief executive and incapacitated play-making talisman.

All the same, the positions of Newcastle and Richmond on the outer fringes of the contest deny them the luxury of a single fail-

ure. The Falcons, unbeaten in league rugby at their George home since January 1996, go into tonight's game without Andrew, who dislocated a shoulder in the dying seconds of Sunday's ferocious set-to with Wasps, and may well have to do without three other international backs. Jonny Wilkinson (twisted ankle), Valiga Tuigamala (strained knee) and Tony Underwood ("dead" leg) are all doubtful with Premiership novices David Walder, Jamie Noone and Tim May standing by.

Harlequins, also in the north-east tonight for a "must-win" game at West Hartlepool, are so fearful of committing a costly four pos against the Premiership's bottom club that they have recalled Jason Leonard, Keith Wood, Zinzan Brooke and Chris Sheehy, a forward quartet boasting nearly 250 Test caps. "We have 23 points and there are 12 more available to us," said John Gallagher, the Quins manager. "Of those 12, I think we'll need nine; it seems 32 points might be enough to do the job."

If Europe's sudden reap-

pearance on the agenda is giving players and coaches some late-season palpitations, they are nowhere near as stressed out as the fixture planners. The theory that at least two Premiership One clubs would fold before next September, thereby reducing the size of the top echelon from 14 to a more manageable 12, appears to be fading. Richmond, currently in administration, remain confident of a successful relaunch, while Bedford are close to finalising a new investment package that would secure their immediate future.

Frank Warren, the boxing promoter who bought into Bedford two years ago, is expected to sell his interest to joint backers by the end of the week.

If next season's Premiership stays at 14, the most successful clubs could play as many as 31 fixtures before the World Cup final on 6 November and the end of a season already expanded to accommodate the move to a Six Nations international format. The planners still say the campaign will end in May, but they refuse to say which May.



Kevin Willis, of Toronto Raptors, knocks down Orlando Magic's Isaac Austin during Toronto's NBA match in Toronto. The Raptors won 90-72. Results, Digest, page 27; Photograph: Reuters

Derby split with coach Donewald

BASKETBALL

BY RICHARD TAYLOR

DERBY STORM have parted company with their coach, Bob Donewald, after the club was involved in a number of disciplinary problems this season.

Derby said of the decision not to renew the 29-year-old American's contract: "While the club appreciate the coaching and recruiting capabilities of the coach, we are unwilling

to compromise on fundamental administration differences between the two parties." They hope to announce a replacement by the end of this week.

The most successful season in Derby's history, by virtue of

reaching the League Trophy final, was overshadowed by disciplinary excesses. Donewald accrued a total of £900 in fines and suspension from four games.

England international Rick Williams and American Rick Alderson were also suspended for the last third of the season for their part in the brawl which

forced the league game at Chester in January to be abandoned after 28 seconds.

And another American, Maurice Robinson, received a six-month ban with a further six months suspended for failing to supply a complete urine sample after the League Trophy final, which Derby lost to Manchester Giants.

TOWCESTER

2.10 Incline 2.40 The Campeon (nb) 3.15 Come On Elfish 3.45 Trade Dispute 4.20 Gate To 4.50 TAKE MY SIDE (nap) 5.20 Hurricane Jane

GOING: Good to Soft (Good in straight).
Races: 1-4, 6-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-26, 28-30, 32-34, 36-38, 40-42, 44-46, 48-50, 52-54, 56-58, 60-62, 64-66, 68-70, 72-74, 76-78, 80-82, 84-86, 88-90, 92-94, 96-98, 100-102, 104-106, 108-110, 112-114, 116-118, 120-122, 124-126, 128-130, 132-134, 136-138, 140-142, 144-146, 148-150, 152-154, 156-158, 160-162, 164-166, 168-170, 172-174, 176-178, 180-182, 184-186, 188-190, 192-194, 196-198, 200-202, 204-206, 208-210, 212-214, 216-218, 220-222, 224-226, 228-230, 232-234, 236-238, 240-242, 244-246, 248-250, 252-254, 256-258, 260-262, 264-266, 268-270, 272-274, 276-278, 280-282, 284-286, 288-290, 292-294, 296-298, 300-302, 304-306, 308-310, 312-314, 316-318, 320-322, 324-326, 328-330, 332-334, 336-338, 340-342, 344-346, 348-350, 352-354, 356-358, 360-362, 364-366, 368-370, 372-374, 376-378, 380-382, 384-386, 388-390, 392-394, 396-398, 400-402, 404-406, 408-410, 412-414, 416-418, 420-422, 424-426, 428-430, 432-434, 436-438, 440-442, 444-446, 448-450, 452-454, 456-458, 460-462, 464-466, 468-470, 472-474, 476-478, 480-482, 484-486, 488-490, 492-494, 496-498, 500-502, 504-506, 508-510, 512-514, 516-518, 520-522, 524-526, 528-530, 532-534, 536-538, 540-542, 544-546, 548-550, 552-554, 556-558, 560-562, 564-566, 568-570, 572-574, 576-578, 580-582, 584-586, 588-590, 592-594, 596-598, 600-602, 604-606, 608-610, 612-614, 616-618, 620-622, 624-626, 628-630, 632-634, 636-638, 640-642, 644-646, 648-650, 652-654, 656-658, 660-662, 664-666, 668-670, 672-674, 676-678, 680-682, 684-686, 688-690, 692-694, 696-698, 700-702, 704-706, 708-710, 712-714, 716-718, 720-722, 724-726, 728-730, 732-734, 736-738, 740-742, 744-746, 748-750, 752-754, 756-758, 760-762, 764-766, 768-770, 772-774, 776-778, 780-782, 784-786, 788-790, 792-794, 796-798, 800-802, 804-806, 808-810, 812-814, 816-818, 820-822, 824-826, 828-830, 832-834, 836-838, 840-842, 844-846, 848-850, 852-854, 856-858, 860-862, 864-866, 868-870, 872-874, 876-878, 880-882, 884-886, 888-890, 892-894, 896-898, 900-902, 904-906, 908-910, 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Film star ruse may aid Bosman clubs

CLUBS COULD force players to honour their contracts even if Fifa decides to implement a new law updating the Bosman ruling, according to a leading sports lawyer. The world governing body is reportedly considering handing complete freedom of movement for players, allowing them to demand transfers even if they are tied to long-term contracts.

However, Ken Foster, a lecturer in sports law at Warwick University, insists that clubs could fight back by employing

By IAN RODGERS

a method used by film-makers Warner Brothers earlier this century to keep hold of their star, Bette Davis. Under that ruling, clubs could not force players to turn out for their team, but could stop them going to another club.

Foster said: "Employers cannot force workers to work for them - that is akin to slavery and clubs could not force a player to play for them. But there is a precedent from the

1930s involving the actress Bette Davis. She tried to walk out on a long-term contract with Warner Brothers film studios. They told her that they could not force her to work for them but they could issue an order which prevented her from working for any other studio."

Foster believes that English clubs could also follow the example of clubs in the Spanish league who have inserted clauses into players' contracts. "There was a clause inserted into Ronaldo's contract at

Barcelona - I would call them penalty clauses - saying if the player moves, a large compensation fee has got to be paid by the player to get out of the contract," Foster said.

Fifa has yet to make a final decision on the form the amendment to the ruling will take. "We are constantly working on amendments to regulations on players' status and transfers and they are, among other amendments, working on amendments to do with the Bosman ruling," a spokesman

said. "Basically, as the legal situation in Europe evolves, regulation must evolve to adapt and it is an on-going process."

South Africa is to invite the four other African countries seeking to stage the 2006 World Cup finals to a summit in Johannesburg to discuss a unified bid. The summit is to be held next month and follows a visit last week to Egypt and Morocco by the South African deputy tourism minister, Peter Mokaba, and Danny Jordaan, the chief executive officer of

South Africa's bid committee. The summit is to be convened by the South African sports minister, Steve Tshwete, and invitations will be sent to the sports ministers of Ghana and Nigeria as well as Egypt and Morocco, the four other African countries in the race for 2006.

"It is imperative that Africa presents just one candidate if it is to win the bid," said Jordaan.

The South Africans are hoping that the meeting will persuade the other four African

candidates to withdraw from the race. They are also keen to include key figures from the other African countries on their bid committee to present a stronger case for a first World Cup finals to be held on the African continent.

The idea for a summit follows an appeal by the Confederation of African Football president, Issa Hayatou, for a single African candidate. Brazil, England and Germany are the other countries bidding for the 2006 finals.

Vialli: 'I made tactical mistake'

By STEVE TONGUE

THE CHELSEA player-manager, Gianluca Vialli, yesterday admitted to making a tactical error in Sunday's 2-2 draw at home to Leicester, which may have cost his side any real hope of winning their first League championship for 44 years.

Chelsea were 2-0 up and coasting until Leicester's Steve Guppy and substitute Ian Marshall began taking their defence apart in the last 20 minutes. The visitors scored two late goals to prevent Chelsea moving within a single point of Manchester United at the top of the Premiership.

Vialli defended the decision to send on Michael Duberry for Albert Ferrer in order to combat Marshall's aerial strength, but said he would have changed at that stage to a back four instead of persisting with three centre-backs, plus wing-backs. The system had been changed from 4-4-2 for the first time since the game at Derby in December, when a late equaliser also cost two points.

"I made a mistake which I take full responsibility for, because it's our responsibility to pick the right players and make the right substitutions," he said. "In 10 minutes we almost threw away what we've done for 10 months, but it happens in football."

Vialli agreed that the title now lies between United and Arsenal, who moved back in front of his team by thrashing Wimbledon 5-1 on Monday. "We have to learn from Manchester United to put the ball in the back of the net as often as possible, and from Arsenal in the way we defend and from their consistency and great spirit," he said. "It's now in their hands. We are third and will try to win the next five games but I don't think it's going to be enough. We hope we're going to have a positive reaction. You might be disappointed but you have to look at the next match."

That next game is the European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final, second leg away to Real Mallorca tomorrow, which Chelsea must win. After being held 1-1 at Stamford Bridge they are optimistic that their goalkeeper, Ed De Goey, will be able to play despite a broken toe on his kicking foot, sustained towards the end of Sunday's match.

De Goey has played in more games than any other Chelsea player this season - 46 out of 50. He missed the first leg of the first-round European tie against Helsingborgs, when Dmitri Kharike made one of his four appearances. Kharike and Kevin Hitchcock will both travel to Spain today as cover, but there are no other injury problems.

Scots set earlier kick-offs

THE SCOTTISH Premier League yesterday announced that the final fixtures of the season will kick-off at 12.30pm on Sunday 23 May. Under the original agreement signed 12 months ago between the Scottish Premier League and Sky TV, the matches were scheduled to start at 6.05pm.

However, following further consultations between those two parties as well as the police and supporters' representatives, it has been agreed to bring the kick-offs forward.

Roger Mitchell, the SPL chief executive, said: "Sky and the police authorities are to be commended for their flexibility. It has been an extremely complicated process but we are hopeful that it will prove popular with fans and viewers alike. Due to the fact the football season in England will have finished, there is the opportunity to schedule the last day's matches for 12.30pm on Sunday."

"Hopefully the weather will be kind and we can have a real family atmosphere for our final fixtures of the season."

Despite the alterations, the situation is likely to arise again next season. Mitchell said: "We have been discussing the fixture arrangements for several weeks now and separate discussions for next year are still on-going. At present we are unable to arrive at a time which suits those involved. The likelihood is that the 6.05pm slot will be maintained for next year."

Anelka anxieties haunt Wenger

By BILL PIERCE

THE MISERY of moody Bleu Nicolas Anelka remains the one blot on Arsenal's landscape as Arsène Wenger sounds the bugle for the Gunners to continue their dogged and relentless Premiership title pursuit of Manchester United.

The Frenchman was unable to bathe in the warm glow of his team-mates' satisfaction after they lifted the trophy of last week's dramatic FA Cup semi-final exit against United with an emphatic 5-1 victory over Wimbledon. The new hero of post-World Cup France, a 20-year-old giant with the natural talent to become his country's No 1 striker for years to come, was dropped for last night's game at Highbury which lifted Arsenal to within a point of the leaders.

Anelka cut a lonely figure,

PREMIERSHIP TOP THREE									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Man Utd	32	19	10	3	72	37	67		
Arsenal	33	18	12	3	48	14	66		
Chelsea	33	17	13	3	49	26	64		

REMAINING FIXTURES									
Manchester United: Sunday Leeds United (away); 1 May: Aston Villa (home); 5 May: Arsenal (a); 8 May: Middlesbrough (a); 12 May: Blackburn Rovers (a); 16 May: Tottenham Hotspur (h)									
Arsenal: Saturday: Middlesbrough (a); 1 May: Derby (h); 5 May: Tottenham (a); 8 May: Leeds (a); 16 May: Aston Villa (h)									
Chelsea: April 24: Sheffield Wednesday (h); April 25: Everton (h); May 5: Leeds (h); May 8: Tottenham (a); May 16: Derby County (h)									

REMAINING FIXTURES

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unemployed and unheralded on the substitutes' bench after a personal nightmare in the semi-final replay six days earlier. Now Wenger faces critical decisions over the loss of form of the young man he snatched from Paris St-Germain two years ago and who, last season, splendidly accepted the challenge of replacing the club's record marksman, Ian Wright.

Anelka scored the FA Cup final goal against Newcastle which clinched the Double and brought him a fat new four-year contract last summer and since then has added 15 more this season. But he has not scored in seven games since the end of February and rumours of his unsettled life in London just will not go away.

Wenger was again obliged to deny suggestions that Anelka, who admits he cherishes the idea of one day playing in Spain, will be up for sale in the summer. "Nicolas is not going anywhere," Wenger insisted as he patiently explained why Anelka was dropped for the second time in four games. "People



Patrick Vieira (top) celebrates with Nwankwo Kanu after the Nigerian scored his second goal and Arsenal's fifth in Monday's 5-1 win over Wimbledon

seem to forget that he is only 20 years old and has played so many games for us this season. There is intense pressure on all these games and it was clear to me he needed a rest but that doesn't mean he won't come back into the team."

But the introduction of Nigerian giant Nwankwo Kanu for his full Highbury debut in Anelka's place gives Wenger a dilemma for the five remaining games in which just one slip could destroy the dream of retaining the title.

Consistently brilliant Kanu scored one goal, played a vital part in two others - including his header, which went in off

Ben Thatcher after striking a post - and, most significantly, proved he is fit for 90 minutes, the only doubt over him when he arrived at Arsenal two months ago.

The Gunners can go top of the Premiership for the first time this season if they win at in-form Middlesbrough on Saturday. But then United will have two games in hand, starting at Leeds on Sunday - a match which could be hugely influenced by their fortunes in Turin tomorrow night when Juventus bar the way to their dream of a treble.

"Personally, I hope Manchester United win in Italy and

reach the final of the Champions' League," said the Arsenal midfielder Patrick Vieira. "That would be very important for football in England and it would give them something else to think about apart from the championship."

"We [Arsenal] all feel so much better than last week after that game against Wimbledon and we were very happy for Dennis Bergkamp that he scored after missing the penalty in the semi-final. But I also had to do my part because it was the stupid ball I lost against Manchester which helped Ryan Giggs to score their winning goal. I feel now we can keep the

pressure on Manchester United right to the end."

Wenger accepts the reality that United still have to slip twice in their remaining six games to give Arsenal any real opening. United's massive goal difference of plus-40 is worth virtually an extra point, even though the Gunners boosted their own mark to 34 on Monday night.

But the England coach, Kevin Keegan, could have a defining influence on the title race with the squad he picks on Thursday for the friendly international in Hungary next week. He has indicated he will not call upon any of the play-

ers from the Premiership's top three clubs even though such diplomacy would not impress some other top-flight managers.

Indeed many believe the Bundesliga game serves no real purpose and runs an unnecessary extra risk of injuries to key players. But whatever Keegan's deliberations, Wenger also has to contemplate Bergkamp and Marc Overmars being called up by the Netherlands for their friendly at home to Morocco next Wednesday - a game in which United's powerful defender Jaap Stam could also figure.

Bergkamp has not trained

since the semi-final in which, although he would never suggest it, a groin strain may have contributed to the tame penalty shot which left him in such despair until Monday night when he was brought off to a standing ovation 20 minutes from the end.

Overmars, too, is only just coming back to full power after an ankle injury and blistered feet sustained in the Netherlands' friendly against Argentina last month but the Euro 2000 hosts are unlikely to let Wenger withdraw either of his players from the Morocco game without making their own fitness assessments.

Forest set to make move for Moyes

NOTTINGHAM FOREST have targeted Dave Moyes of Preston as their manager. The relegation-bound side are ready to approach North End for the 35-year-old Scot, who has transformed the Lancashire club in his 15 months in charge.

Moyes, who was shortlisted for the assistant manager's job at Manchester United, is the type of young coach Forest want as they go back to the drawing board after a disastrous season under Dave Bassett and Ron Atkinson. The fact that Moyes is used to working within a tight budget is also in his favour as Forest face a season of financial cutbacks in the First Division.

Moyes has guided Preston into a Second Division play-off berth having spent just £25,000. His side has gained a reputation for playing stylish football and almost gave Arsenal a shock in the third round of this season's FA Cup.

Moyes has emerged as the top name on a list of candidates that also included Stoke City's

Brian Little and Sammy McIlroy of Macclesfield Town. An official approach is expected this week, although an appointment would not be made until next month.

Southampton have lost their appeal to overturn the sending-off of Norwegian international defender Claus Lundekvam against Aston Villa despite a personal request from their manager, Dave Jones, to the referees' officer, Phil Don.

Lundekvam was dismissed for a second bookable offence by referee Neale Barry at Villa Park after he pulled at the shirt of the Aston Villa midfielder Ian Taylor in the Saints' recent 3-0 defeat at Villa Park.

Newcastle's French striker Louis Saha has had his hopes of an FA Cup final appearance severely dented after fracturing his cheekbone in a training ground accident. The on-loan Metz forward has had surgery after a collision with defender David Beaharall, who made his senior debut in the 3-1 home defeat by Everton on Saturday.

Confident Wilkinson

HOWARD WILKINSON does not believe England's poor performance in the World Youth Cup means that the country's young footballing talent has fallen behind the rest of the world.

The Football Association's technical director thinks the much-weakened England team that played in Nigeria this month did not reflect the wealth of potentially world-class young footballers now prospering in the Premiership.

England, without young first-team regulars like Michael Owen and Jonathon Woodgate, failed to score a goal in their three World Youth Cup matches, which all ended in defeat. They had the worst record of any team in the tournament, but Wilkinson refused to be downcast about the future of the national game.

"I don't think the England performance in the under-20 championships in Nigeria would be taken by any serious student of the game as an accurate measure of where our young footballers stand in the world," he said. "The team that went out, as opposed to some nations who were out there, would not

By MATT BARLOW

have been the best performers available to play there."

Wilkinson was speaking after the launch of the Coca-Cola Mini Soccer revolution, inspired by his own 'Charter for Quality', at Wembley Stadium in London yesterday. The new seven-a-side football scheme will replace full-size games for all players aged under 10.

Wilkinson and England's temporary coach, Kevin Keegan, were both at Wembley for the launch, along with Martin Keown, the Arsenal and England defender.

Wilkinson said the mini soccer scheme was an essential development to improve standards in young players as well as maximising the enjoyment they got from football.

The former Leeds and Sheffield Wednesday manager said the changing social environment of Britain had meant a decline in street football, which he had enjoyed as a child. Street football had not been adequately replaced by a proper, well-monitored small-sided equivalent, he said.

Wilkinson said: "The need for organised recreation has risen in recent years, for all sorts of reasons. I don't think we anticipated the effects of losing street football as we might have done."

The disappointment many felt in England's form in Nigeria was mirrored in Saudi Arabia, where their side's German coach, Piet Hamburg, has paid for their first-round elimination with his job. His contract was terminated "after he failed to reach the required results," according to the Saudi FA's spokesman. He said a new coach would be hired soon to replace Hamburg but he did not give any details.

Earlier this month the federation hired a Czech, Milan Macala, to guide their national squad. He became their fourth coach in 10 years when replacing another German, Otto Pfister, who took Saudi Arabia to the second round in the 1994 World Cup in the United States.

Pfister was re-hired last year to replace Carlos Alberto Parreira of Brazil, who was sacked after the Saudis' poor performance in the 1998 World Cup.

Captain backed after drug-taking

MARTIN NEIL, the Berwick Rangers captain, has been given the full support of his club after his confessions of drug-taking.

The Scottish Third Division side have confirmed they will stand by their 29-year-old defender after he admitted to taking cocaine, LSD and ecstasy for the last 12 years. He has agreed to have drug counselling, probably near his Edinburgh home, and will miss the club's last three matches of the season as he begins his rehabilitation process.

It was widely expected that Neil, who recently signed a new two-year contract, would be sacked by the club. However, in a statement authorised by the chairman, Tom Davidson, Berwick said "to a man" they were supporting the player.

"The board of Berwick Rangers must advise that Martin Neil will be given every support during a most traumatic time," it read. "To a man, management, playing staff and the board are behind Martin and will endeavour to bring

him through whatever remedial progress is deemed necessary. The assistance and advice offered by the Scottish Football Association and the Scottish League will be most gratefully accepted."

Paul Smith, the Berwick manager, said: "I spoke to Martin today and he has agreed to counselling. That is the most important thing at the moment and we hope to see him back next season."

Neil's revelations will probably prompt the SFA to step up the number of random drug tests among players next season, after Neil claimed he had never been tested. Tony Higgins, secretary of the Scottish Professional Footballers' Association, said: "The SFA make an assessment at the end of every season about the number of tests that have been taken. No numbers are made public but I am certain the procedure will be stepped up."

"I am sure Neil's case is a special one, considering the number of drugs he says he has taken over the years."

THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 21 April 1999
Henm
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Salt Lake City
uses £20m sp

Scots set
earlier
kick-offs

THE SCOTTISH Premier League yesterday announced that the final fixtures of the season will kick-off at 12.30pm on Sunday 23 May. Under the original agreement signed 12 months ago between the Scottish Premier League and Sky TV, the matches were scheduled to start at 6.05pm.

However, following further consultations between those two parties as well as the police and supporters' representatives, it has been agreed to bring the kick-offs forward.

Roger Mitchell, the SPL chief executive, said: "Sky and the police authorities are to be commended for their flexibility. It has been an extremely complicated process but we are hopeful that it will prove popular with fans and viewers alike. Due to the fact the football season in England will have finished, there is the opportunity to schedule the last day's matches for 12.30pm on Sunday."

"Hopefully the weather will be kind and we can have a real family atmosphere for our final fixtures of the season."

Despite the alterations, the situation is likely to arise again next season. Mitchell said: "We have been discussing the fixture arrangements for several weeks now and separate discussions for next year are still on-going. At present we are unable to arrive at a time which suits those involved. The likelihood is that the 6.05pm slot will be maintained for next year."

SPORT

AUSTIN'S SPECIAL POWERS P23 • TROUBLE IN TURIN FOR ANCELOTTI P22

European Cup semi-final: Ferguson frames new strategy to contain Zidane as spotlight falls on Yorke and Cole

United forced to alter tactics

FOR THE first time this season Manchester United are going into a match they probably need to win with defence on their minds. That, in itself, is an indication of the scale of their task in the second leg of their European Cup semi-final against Juventus tonight.

They arrived in Turin yesterday thinking as much about Zinedine Zidane, who engineered Juventus' 1-1 draw at Old Trafford a fortnight ago, as about Ryan Giggs whose ankle injury is likely to prevent him from starting.

The logic is obvious to anyone who saw Zidane pull United apart at Old Trafford but it also stems from United's confidence, after scoring three goals in Barcelona, two in Munich and one in Milan, that they will score at least once in the Stadio Delle Alpi. If they also managed to stop Juventus scoring that would be enough to put United through to the Barcelona final on 26 May. If Juventus matched them for goals United would, at worst, have to face penalties. A scoring draw higher than 1-1 would put United through.

This philosophy does depend, however, on either Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole returning to form, or goals from a midfield which may have its hands full dealing with Zidane and Edgar Davids.

Cole and Yorke were in bullish mood yesterday but neither have scored for more than a month, having played 18 hours and 44 minutes between them since their last goals.

BY GLENN MOORE
in Turin

"I don't like it when people go on about how long I have gone without scoring," Cole said. "It is nonsense to say Dwight and I have dried up, this happens to everyone. As long as we are contributing to the team, that is what matters."

Yorke, who has personally gone 632 minutes without a goal, added: "The first match with Juventus was my worst game since coming to United - but now I have another chance."

So do the midfield against their Old Trafford tormentors. Roy Keane, the United captain, said: "They won't get as much space as they did at Old Trafford." Alex Ferguson spoke with uncharacteristic circumspection, as the team checked into their airport hotel. He said: "We have certain tactics to counter the Zidane thing, I hope."

These, despite this week's assertion by Gianni Agnelli, the Juventus patriarch, that Zidane is dominated by his wife, are clearly more concrete than hoping he has had to stay at home to do the ironing.

Keane elaborated as much as he dared. "I believe tactically we got it slightly wrong at Old Trafford. We were never sure whether the centre-halves were going to pick up Zidane (who played just behind Filippo Inzaghi) so obviously we are going to chat about that. They may have to step out [to pick



Ryan Giggs, sitting out as Manchester United train at Stadio Delle Alpi yesterday, will learn this morning if his ankle injury will keep him out of tonight's game

Reuters

Zidane up) though the way Zidane moves about, it is difficult."

The likelihood is that Ronny Johnsen will be told to keep an eye on Zidane and Nicky Butt will replace Paul Scholes in the central midfield to provide a deeper presence. With Giggs struggling to shake off an ankle injury Scholes may find himself on the left, although Jesper Blomqvist may be preferred to give the team better balance. Should the tie begin drifting away, Ferguson is sure to gamble by throwing on Giggs.

Teddy Sheringham may also have a part to play for if United will not go out to go out, they

will not fall without a fight. This is their second Champions' Cup semi-final in three seasons and the longing for the trophy grows by the year.

You can tell it is the business end of the season when even the businessmen are excited and, while many of the faithful believe Martin Edwards is more interested in balance sheets than scoresheets, United's chairman was clearly motivated by the prospect of glory rather than riches yesterday.

He said: "People say Manchester United is a great club and it is, but it is about time we put something on the table to prove it. It is 31 years since we

won the European Cup and that is a long time."

One of the members of the winning United team, Sir Bobby Charlton, likened the match to the semi-final the 1968 side survived in Madrid on their way to their triumph. "I remember we were 3-2 down on aggregate at half-time and it looked all over. The Real Madrid fans were euphoric and their players had a degree of arrogance," he said. "But we worked hard and got the two goals we needed. The current team have that spirit, they are a brave team."

That courage, mental as much as physical, will be required tonight.

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DI LIVIO							
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PERUZZI	ZIDANE	YORKE	BUTT	JOHNSON			
JULIANO	DESCHAMPS						
BIRINDELLI	CONTE	GIGGS/SCHOLES	IRWIN				

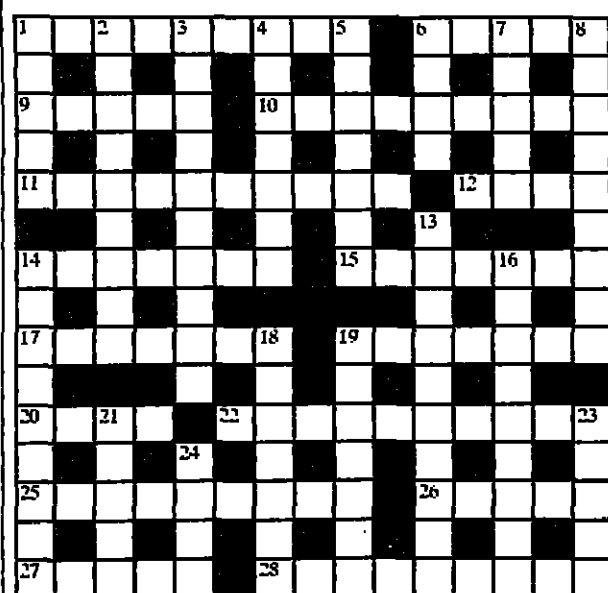
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ACROSS

- Promises of party in show-ring (9)
- No such bird seen on Ilkley Moor? (5)
- Nocturnal climber of the wall in Paris (5)
- Defeat from piece of careless fielding (9)
- Fat rooster got loose? He did wrong (10)
- Mid-off field in ugly jumper? (4)
- Followers of English can, in French street (7)
- Rifle still used as musical instrument (7)
- Ideal sort of pitch? (7)
- Church porch in Northern Israel (7)
- Sensational newspapers leading to riches? (4)
- Man of the match (10)

DOWN

- Cheat caught under short promontory in Scotland (5)
- Metro run a varied number above the line? (9)
- Foreign ref translated this handy index (10)
- Charge for keeping silver in reserve (7)
- Grave of old emperor no longer useful? (7)
- Roman statesman's

ring-tailed feline (4)

- Beautiful fairy left in danger (5)
- Keep fresh at first in city (9)
- English company sound in caring for the environment (10)
- Bang-on-time journalism (9)
- Account outstanding - puffing up sales, we hear (9)
- Leg-cuffs appear strange at first (4-3)
- Dog's wagging tail, a welcome thing (7)
- Master, in a tug that's wrecked, needing compass (5)
- May clout? (5)
- Fish taken from lake daily (4)

Fowler would have played, says Keegan

BY MATT BARLOW

KEVIN KEEGAN said yesterday that he will name the strongest possible England squad for next week's friendly in Hungary - and that Robbie Fowler would have started the match if he had been fit.

Premiership managers have been quick to criticise the timing of the game, but Keegan said he will have no qualms about selecting Manchester United and Arsenal players in the squad. If there weren't then it wouldn't be an England squad worthy of the name.

"I will pick as good a squad as I can under the circumstances and I hope everybody is fit and available," he said. "There will be Manchester United and Arsenal players in the squad. If there weren't then it wouldn't be an England squad worthy of the name."

Fowler's broken nose, which he is due to have reset in hospital on Friday will keep him out of the game, but Keegan said he would otherwise have played.

Keegan was speaking after the launch of the Coca-Cola mini football scheme at Wembley yesterday.

"Robbie would have been selected," Keegan said. "But he has an operation on Friday and he won't be fit. It would have given him a boost just when he needed it. Sometimes in life you get a blow, and then something else happens - and just when you think it can't get any worse something else happens again."

"When you pick the 22 best players in England you should have him in, and I would have but for the fact that he's injured and he's not even an option. But Robbie is young and he has got plenty more opportunities."

Fowler's manager at Liverpool, Gerard Houllier, suggested yesterday that the player's future at Anfield may be in the balance.

Houllier, usually the epitome of diplomacy, has clearly been disturbed by Fowler's recent behaviour, including his confrontation with Graeme Le Saux and his celebrations in front of Everton fans when he mimicked snorting cocaine.

"The coming weeks will be important for him and his career," said Houllier, who against Leicester tonight could give Sean Dundee his first start for the club alongside Karl-Heinz Riedle in the absence of Fowler and Michael Owen, who has a hamstring injury. "As a manager you have to deal with all sorts of situations. There are many coming at the same time and sometimes with the same people but I hope they will draw lessons from them."



Fowler: Further setback

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BUSINESS REVIEW

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Kelvin Laing

Inside: British Biotech's bitter pill to swallow, page 5
The powerhouse of the energy industry, page 6
The merger that created fireworks, page 12

Plus: Hamish McRae, Diane Coyle,
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THE BUSINESS WORLD

Forget the big fish and hook up to new ideas

BRANDS, BRANDS, brands - globalisation requires global brands, and insofar as the marketing experts agree about anything it is that the Internet revolution is going to increase the power of global brands still further. Look, for example, at the way in which a single brand of book retailer, Amazon.com, has built a global network, or the way in which three or four search engines have become global names.

Most of us probably regret and resent the process. It seems absurd that we should pay a premium for what is often no more than a name and some cute advertising. But if global brands are indeed going to continue to become more powerful, anyone who does not own one is faced with a grinding problem. How do you combat this "winner-take-all" effect? How do the little fish eat the big ones for a change?

I'm grateful for some ideas from a timely book - *Eating the Big Fish* by Adam Morgan, just published by John Wiley & Sons. The core of his argument is that if you are a second or third-ranker you cannot just imitate the first-rank

brands. To do so is to play by the leader's rules, with less money. You have to change the rules.

But how? Morgan outlines eight principles that challengers might follow, starting with the idea of using inexperience positively and ending with the (equally radical) notion of learning to run an unstable company. To many people this might seem like typical agency-speak - clever ideas but hard to apply in practice - and in a way it is. But the examples he gives show how some of the world's most successful businesses have achieved their success by turning potential weaknesses into strengths.

Some examples may make this clearer. Richard Branson knew nothing about airlines when he founded Virgin Atlantic. If you were trying to find the least suitable background for running an airline I think you would be hard put to beat pop music. You don't want your pilot on substances and the cabin crew trashing their hotel rooms. Come to think of it, running an airline must be about the world's worst background for entering fi-

nanial services, as Branson has done. In America half the airlines seem to be in Chapter 11 bankruptcy, while in Europe they are being bailed out by governments - not ideal for asking people to entrust their savings with you.

Yet Branson managed to reinvent air-travel, partly by offering first-class space at business-class prices, and partly by making economy travel fun (well, sort of). He turned his lack of experience into a strength.

At the other end of the list comes the "flying unstable" idea. Large companies are organised in such a way as to be stable, or at least they try to be. So they hire people who fit in with the established culture and they have a planning structure which seeks to avoid serious mistakes. But unstable companies hire risk-takers and don't plan much - but respond with the speed of light to market signals. Managing the latter is much harder because you also need to identify dangers, and cope with them before they become serious. But if you are coming



HAMISH MCRAE

To many people, this may sound like typical agency speak - clever ideas, hard to apply in practice. But it shows how many successful companies have managed to turn their weaknesses into new strengths

from behind you have little option but to do this.

Anyone with experience of watching businesses thrive and fail will have to acknowledge a certain reservation about this gung-ho, take-no-prisoners line of approach. I remember being told by a top American telephone executive a couple of years ago that there were two types of companies: those that adapted to the world and those that changed the world. She saw her company as one of the latter. I was less than popular when I replied that a US phone company, however big, was not going to have much impact on the big forces that would shape the world - like demographic change or the development of the European Union. I noticed a little item in the FT a couple of weeks ago, saying that she had resigned following a downturn in the company's performance.

A further criticism is that being a brilliant brander does not ensure corporate success if the underlying position of the company is too weak. Adam Morgan cites Nissan

as a marketing success, and it did indeed do very well in the US. But the company as a whole is in such a catastrophic debt position that it has just had to sell a large stake to Renault. That liaison, incidentally, must top the league for "odd couples" and I suspect will eventually become a divorce.

But the core idea that a challenger company has to use positively the fact that it is coming from behind must be right. The Internet in particular seems to me to be changing the rules of marketing in ways which we are only beginning to glimpse, but which can be summed up in the idea that speed has become more important than size. (There is an example of this "speed instead of size" principle with Morgan's book. If you cannot be bothered to read it, you can get its 10 main points from its website, eatbigfish@aol.com.)

Looking 10 years ahead, the big question surely is whether Internet-related technologies reduce the entry cost into new businesses, or whether they simply give a first-mover (like Amazon.com) an abil-

ity to create a new global brand very swiftly. If they fundamentally and lastingly cut entry costs, it will become easier for anyone with a good idea to challenge the leaders. It will not be so much a question of eating the big fish. You will not really know who the big fish are: they may simply be small fish that happen to be very close to the viewer. Anyone can become a big fish providing he or she uses the new communications opportunities.

If this is right, then there will indeed continue to be global brands, but there will also be global niche brands. Anyone producing a really great product or service in a very specialised area will be able to get that product or service into a high proportion of the potential market. The premium will be on knowledge of the specialist area.

For small and medium-sized businesses this is wonderful news. It will not be a question of challenging the global leaders. What they have to do is to become true experts in their particular corner and they can become a niche global brand for themselves.

DATELINE: TOKYO

Japan feels shame of cutting back

BY PAUL LEE

FOR SOME Japanese executives the thought of taking early retirement is an unbearable humiliation. It pushed Masaharu Nonaka, a 58-year-old manager at Bridgestone, to suicide, still seen by many in Japan as an honourable escape from shame.

"I will resist the cruel restructuring the company is now carrying out," Nonaka wrote in a letter to his fellow workers at Japan's largest tyre maker, Bridgestone, before his death last month.

"Since joining Bridgestone I have worked for my company for more than 30 years without paying attention to my family. The efforts of such employees have led to today's Bridgestone."

The Japanese have come to expect their companies to provide lifetime employment guarantees, in effect relying on a corporate welfare state. Little wonder then that firms have become bloated, allocating money and staff with little regard for shareholders.

Now, with the country stuck in recession, these companies find they need heavy cutbacks and a wave of changes appears to be sweeping Japanese boardrooms.

More than 100 firms have pledged in recent weeks to turn their fortunes around through *risutora*, or restructuring. Their proposals mean spinning off loss-making operations, cutting capital spending, and most painfully, axing thousands of jobs. "Over the last eight months, and for the first time in the 1990s, Japan has begun to adopt policies which go in the right direction," says Kenneth Courtis, chief economist at Deutsche Bank Group Asia Pacific. "The country's

corporate sector has begun to take the hard decisions to reposition and restructure."

Foreign investors, enticed by the promise of improved earnings, poured money into Tokyo's stock market, pushing the Nikkei index up 22 per cent this year. Four industrial giants, Sony, NEC, Hitachi and Mitsubishi Electric, have pledged to cut 33,000 jobs over the next four years. Japan's top 15 banks have promised to cut another 20,000 staff, and that figure may rise even higher since many economists doubt all these banks will survive the next four years.

At Bridgestone more than 3,000 jobs have already gone. After starting reforms earlier than many, Bridgestone has profits at a record level.

As Japan's worst postwar recession drags on, with no sign of a revival in private demand, companies are finally acknowledging the need to cut back and regroup.

The rising tide of bankruptcies has reminded executives of the price of delaying tough decisions. More than 1,200 firms went bankrupt in Japan last month alone and the US ratings agency Standard and Poor's warns more will follow. In the past 18 months, since the collapse of the brokerage Yamaiichi Securities came close to triggering a financial panic, the business environment has changed. Japan's *keiretsu*, powerful business conglomerates, are breaking down, and banks, desperate to cut loan portfolios, are offering less help to their traditional allies.

Companies are also offloading troubled operations. So Sony, which unveiled a drastic

reform plan in March, will close 15 of its 70 plants worldwide in the next four years. The electronics giant will absorb three affiliates and base its core business around its lucrative PlayStation game console.

Nippon Steel, the world's biggest steelmaker, is ending its six-year flirtation with microchip production, giving up its Japan operations and handing control of its stake in a Singapore venture to a rival.

Japanese steel firms have been hard hit by complaints of dumping from US steel mills and are being forced to wipe off excess capacity. "I believe it is inevitable that in steel industry consolidation we would need to scrap excess capacity," says Akira Chihaya, Nippon Steel's president. His firm is the only Japanese steelmaker expecting profits in fiscal year just ended.

At Nikko Securities, Japan's number three brokerage, executives have sought refuge by selling a 25 per cent stake in the firm to the US banking giant Citicorp.

The 220bn yen (£1.2bn) deal, signed last June, was a rude shock for Nikko's top shareholder and erstwhile ally Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi and signalled a breakdown in long-standing business ties. Nikko has since decided to liquidate a troubled real estate affiliate and close offices across Asia.

The Japanese authorities have hailed the moves, recognising the need for change. Newspaper editorials tell readers to be more independent in their career plans. "In such a world it is impossible to draw up a lifetime plan based on success in one company entrance examination," the *Yomiuri Shimbun* newspaper said. As *risutora* encourages

companies to spin off sideline businesses so others are stepping in to pick up the pieces. Britain's 3i Group, Europe's top venture capital firm, is to set up a joint venture with the Industrial Bank of Japan to offer management buy-out advice in Japan. Their firm will start with a 20bn yen (£180m) investment fund.

Others have already started buying, notably GE Capital, the finance arm of the US industrial giant General Electric. In its latest purchase, in January this year, GE Capital spent 800bn yen (£4.4bn) buying a leasing firm once run by the Long-Term Credit Bank, which collapsed in October.

Yet although there are new opportunities it is by no means certain this wave of restructuring, or the sudden stock boom it has encouraged, heralds an imminent recovery in Japan. "The actual restructuring plans investors have been enthusiastic about are still pretty limited," said Peter Morgan, economist at HSBC Securities in Tokyo.

After all, there was a similar burst of restructuring earlier this decade, when the yen climbed to record highs against the dollar, but that did little to break Japan out of its post-1980s slump.

This time economic conditions are considerably worse, and troubles are being felt across Japan's principal market, Asia.

"The risk is that most firms are still closely tied to the old ways and remain reluctant to change," said Ron Bevacqua, senior economist at Merrill Lynch in Tokyo.

"The market has focused on a few substantive restructuring announcements and



The despair of Shohji Nozawa, the president of Yamaiichi Securities who wept after his brokerage closed down in November 1997, has since been repeated at all levels of Japanese business
Shizuo Kamayoshi/AP

other Japanese firms seem to have discovered the positive impact that restructuring announcements have on their share price, even if the contents of the plan are not as bold as those which have captured the headlines."

Though announcements of job losses seem impressive,

they represent little more than early retirement programmes and a cutback on graduate recruitment.

Few firms, particularly among the large corporations, are prepared to face the social opprobrium of making staff redundant.

Already unemployment in

the world's second largest economy is at its worst level since the war, and officials warn that the current 4.6 per cent jobless rate can only worsen.

In the central bank's latest Tankan business survey companies across industry warned of a heavy cutback in investment this year.

"Japan's decade-long problems of stagnant demand, a weak financial system and massive bad loans will continue," Standard and Poor's said in a recent report.

Change may be reaching Japan's boardrooms but many warn it is still not enough to restore the nation's fortunes.

A WEEKLY DIGEST OF THE WORLD'S FINANCIAL PRESS



BUSINESS WEEK

How no-fee Internet service providers may not be getting it right in the United States

THE ALLURE was almost irresistible: "Free Internet access for life." The ads promised. What they didn't say was that this meant "free for the life of the company." Free Internet service providers such as BOSnet, USFreeway and CyberFreeway have folded, leaving tens of thousands of Americans with useless e-mail addresses. But a couple of new companies are trying again - and this time they may get it right. Unlike in earlier tries, NetZero is outsourcing its network to Level 3, AGIS and GTE, saving millions on infrastructure costs. And it isn't charging a start-up fee, making the service virtually risk-free.

- Larry Armstrong/California



THE ECONOMIST

Two-thirds of Britain's economists polled said that they were in favour of joining the euro

WE, AT any rate, were a bit surprised. On the standard tests, which look at factors such as trade and the cross-border mobility of labour, the answer is no. To conclude that Britain and the euro zone should merge their currencies, you need to deploy other arguments. A few emphasised the benefits of exchange rate stability - greater now than allowed for in standard theories. Others said that a non-euro Britain would be at a disadvantage in the competition for international investment. Another theme was the spur to competition among European producers that would come from greater transparency in pricing.

- Editorial



FAR EAST REVIEW

On Hong Kong tycoon Dickson Poon's restructuring of his Dickson Concepts International Group

DICKSON POON has made shareholders an offer he hopes they won't refuse. Under the plan DCI would sell its non-Asian assets - majority stakes in London department store Harvey Nichols and luxury-goods maker ST Dupont - to Poon's private company for \$195m (£122m). In return shareholders would receive a special cash dividend. They could keep their shares in the scaled-down DCI, or sell them to Poon. That would give them a 42 per cent premium on the price of DCI shares before the deal. Sounds generous? Yes, especially to Poon. Critics say it would give him top-notch assets for bargain-basement prices.

- Editorial



THE WASHINGTON POST

On China's moves to open its markets in return for membership of the World Trade Organisation

IN THE past few weeks, China has made a series of bold commitments to US negotiators. Those commitments would move China's economy to a rules-based system and end most forms of state control within roughly five years. A few critical issues remain, but we are on the verge of an agreement that could yield revolutionary change in China. What must the US give away? Nothing. The only act necessary on our part is passage of legislation making normal trade relations with China permanent. Such legislation would also put an end to another sterile debate - that on annual renewal of China's normal trade status.

- William V Roth Jr



FINANCIAL TIMES

On the prospects for Compaq, US computer-maker, after it ousted its chief executive Eckhard Pfeiffer

BEN ROSEN, Compaq's chairman, clearly hopes a change will revive Compaq's fortunes. It won't, not by itself. Compaq's fundamental dilemma is strategic. It is transforming itself from an assembler to a service and solutions provider. But it's been caught half way by plummeting prices in its original PC business. Compaq's response, to adopt a hybrid of part-direct, part-indirect sales, has angered established distributors without lowering costs. Since PCs are becoming commodities, Compaq has no choice but to grind on with its transition. It now owns most of the relevant pieces but knitting them together will take time.

- Lee



BARRON'S

On how Wall Street investors are buying cyclical stocks such as farm equipment and coppers

ALONG WITH Kosovo, last week's big news was Wall Street's stunning discovery of the 99 per cent of the market that isn't hi-tech or Web or even big-cap. Is the emergence of cyclical a fluke? We think not. Instead, we envision that last week's action will turn out to be a precursor, that the show of interest in the out-of-favour masses of stocks will expand and deepen and extend itself. What we're postulating, in short, is that this most unusual bull market will end, ironically, in a most usual way - with every sector getting its dutiful spin and with small-caps, at long last, enjoying an explosive burst of speculation.

- Alan Abelson



FORTUNE

On whether BNP's hostile bid for two rival banks heralds Anglo-Saxon capitalism in France

IT IS easy to ridicule a country that has so many demonstrations in its capital each day that they're listed in the newspapers. But France is clearly doing something right: its 3.2 per cent GDP growth last year outpaced every G7 nation except the US, and inflation was below 1 per cent. But it's not clear what the lasting effects of France's March madness will be. The mega-merger proposed by BNP would not be accompanied by layoffs or any other measures usually required to make a merger pay off. So as Paris tries to be Wall Street on the Seine, the French should remember that there's more to succeeding in the global economy than spending money.

- Anne Faircloth/Paris



Monsanto chief Robert Shapiro (above) often seems baffled and hurt by protests, such as those by Greenpeace (above) directed against the firm's genetically modified seed products Adam Nadel

The monster within

BY DAVID USBORNE

Pity Robert Shapiro, the chief executive of Monsanto. His vision of transforming the once faceless chemicals combine into a modern "life sciences" powerhouse that will exploit advances in biotechnology to increase crop yields and fill dinner bowls worldwide seems to be roughly on target. And yet when shareholders converge on the company headquarters in St Louis, Missouri, for its AGM on Friday he will have much explaining to do.

The past 12 months have not been kind to Monsanto. The worst came last October when a much-touted merger with rival American Home Products of New Jersey foundered, apparently because of unbridgeable differences of view between the management teams of the two prospective partners. The deal's collapse sent Monsanto shares into a tailspin from which they have yet fully to recover. Earnings in 1998, meanwhile, slumped 28 per cent. Shapiro will also be asked about continuing speculation that an alternative marriage could be in the offing, this time with chemicals leviathan DuPont.

Shapiro, 60, is unlikely, moreover, to escape questions about the incident in a San Francisco hotel last autumn, when, after addressing a convention, he had an untimely encounter with a cream pie, which caught him square in the face. Of greater concern to shareholders, however, is the fact that Monsanto has earned itself the image of Public Enemy Number One, if not in the US, then in a myriad of other countries, including Britain.

Answers may not be forthcoming. By all the evidence, Monsanto is entirely baffled, hurt even, by the groundswell of protests that have been directed against it. All, of course, have to do with the leading role that Monsanto has taken in developing and selling - with notable success - genetically engineered seed products to the agricultural industry. In so doing, however, Monsanto has set itself up as the prime target for the growing movement against GM (genetically modified) foods. And so far, the company has failed effectively to counter the opposition. Its efforts have included, for instance, the launching late last year of an estimated \$5m (£3m) PR and advertising campaign in Britain that was meant to promote genetically modified foods as safe and beneficial to consumers and the environment, and to dispel the fears fanned by groups such as Greenpeace. "Greenpeace and so on are doing a much better job than we are," company president Hendrik Verfaillie recently conceded.

The concerns the environmentalists have raised are both scientific and emotional: what will be nature's wrath for tampering with its genetic codes? Will pollens from genetically engineered plants, for instance, waft across to other plants, wreaking unforeseen changes in their make-up? Will Monsanto seeds spawn triffid-like superweeds?

Earlier this year, anti-Monsanto agitators dumped four tonnes of soybeans outside 10

Monsanto survived its association with Agent Orange and chemical warfare in Vietnam. It was even forgiven for foisting Astrotruf and Nutrasweet upon the world. But when Robert Shapiro chose to apply the science of genetics to improving crops, his company became demonised as the dark force behind 'Frankenstein Foods'. On Friday he faces his shareholders at the AGM. Can he convince them he can put the lid back on this can of genetically modified worms?

Downing Street. In India, in "Operation Cremation Monsanto", protesters have systematically burnt fields planted with genetically modified Monsanto seeds. And across the European Union, rhetoric from environmental groups such as Greenpeace about so-called "Frankenstein Foods" is stirring important political opposition to imports from America of any foods derived from genetically engineered crops.

It is a PR nightmare that no one back in St Louis saw coming. Founded in 1901 by a St Louis chemicals company executive named John Queeny (Monsanto was his wife's maiden name), Monsanto was for decades associated only with chemicals. It first found popular fame - or infamy - with the savage defoliant used by the US military in Vietnam, Agent Orange. Monsanto also invented Astrotruf, the synthetic green stuff that masquerades as grass in indoor sports arenas around the world.

From its food division came perhaps its most famous product of all, the artificial sweetener, NutraSweet.

It was in 1981 that Monsanto first began to dedicate funds to exploring the potential of biotech and molecular genetics. The purpose was to see whether useful attributes, like resistance to pests or types of herbicides, could be stitched on to plant types through gene splicing. By the mid-1990s, with Shapiro newly at the helm and the research beginning to produce exciting results, Monsanto had decided that biotech would be its future and the chemical components were gradually sold off.

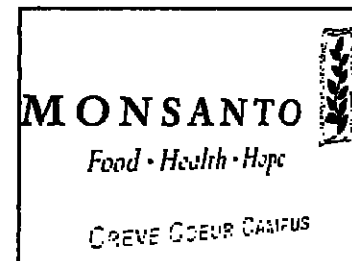
The "life sciences" label that Monsanto attaches to itself today is meant to denote the converging of four formerly distinct industries: food, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. The company's \$9bn (£5.4bn) in annual revenues are now divided three ways. About half are generated by the agriculture division, with Monsanto's long-serving herbicide Roundup acting as a reliable and hugely generous cash cow; about 30 per cent flows from its pharmaceuticals, with products that include Ambien, Arthrotec and, more recently, the hugely promising pain-killer, Celebrex; foods, meanwhile, provide the last 20 per cent.

For Shapiro, at least, there is painful irony in the bogeyman status that Monsanto seems to have earned itself. The company's success in biotech research was meant precisely to win friends among those concerned with the environment. Monsanto sees genetic engineering as the best hope for saving Earth from ecological disaster rather than the other way around. The logic seems reasonable: by inventing new strains of crops that produce magically higher yields, adapt to unkind soil conditions, resist herbicides and pests, Monsanto will enable producers around the world, including in developing nations, to redouble their output. As the population of Earth climbs, more mouths will be fed, the argument goes, while less topsoil is polluted and eroded away.

Thus, Monsanto's corporate mantras are "Food-Health-Hope" and "Doing Well by Doing Good". The first breakthrough for Monsanto came with soybean seeds that were so-called Roundup Ready. Eagerly adopted by the US farm industry, these seeds allow farmers to give their fields one heavy dose of Roundup when the soy plants are seedlings. Because of the genetic fiddling that has happened in the plants, they will not be hurt by the spray while all weeds around them will wither. This means fewer doses of the herbicide and often means there is no need even to till the soil, offering obvious ecological advantages and potential savings of \$1bn (£600m) a year for US farmers. Since then, the company has come up with Roundup Ready cotton and corn, as well as cotton that is resistant to pests. Other products in development include a seed that will produce coloured cotton, doing away with the need to use chemical dyes. Monsanto also produces a hormone that boosts milk production in cows.

"We all know the effects of starvation," Shapiro wrote in this month's *Futurist*. "How can we double or triple food output in a sustainable manner without destroying large parts of the living systems and soil on which we depend? We don't have 100 years to figure this out; at best, we have decades. In that time frame, I know of only two viable candidates: biotechnology and information technology."

And while Monsanto is often depicted, abroad especially, as the modern-day version of an American imperialist machine bent on seizing control of farm production on every continent and playing God in nature's food chain, the culture that Shapiro has established in St Louis is of a different flavour altogether. Indeed, Shapiro, who has been CEO since 1985, is frequently accused of attempting a flaky, almost New Age style of management. He likes to be addressed as "Bob", rarely wears suit or tie and is fiercely committed to democra-



sors in the courts. Moreover, Monsanto has become associated with so-called "terminator" or "suicide" seeds, which, again through genetic manipulation, are infertile on the stalk and cannot be replanted. In truth, terminator seeds were developed by the US government in collaboration with another seed company that Monsanto is now in the process of acquiring.

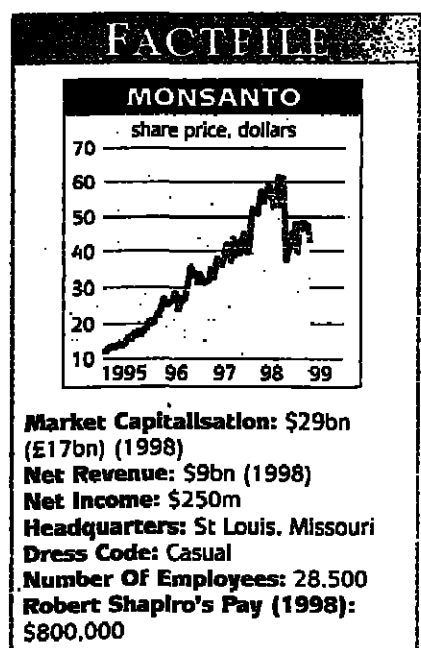
No one expects serious fireworks on Friday, however, and Shapiro seems certain to keep his job. In recognition of Monsanto's difficulties, he took a 17 per cent pay cut last year. Moreover, he will tell shareholders of good reasons for the profits slowdown. One is the roughly \$8bn (£4.8bn) that he has spent on acquiring other seed companies in the US to reinforce Monsanto's market position. He will also cite the still very high costs of genetic engineering research.

Shapiro, meanwhile, has one trump card: the pain-killing drug, Celebrex. The drug, which is marketed through an unusual partnership with Pfizer, has taken off in spectacular fashion since it was introduced last January, prompting analysts to predict a profits turnaround for Monsanto to this year and in 2000. In its first 12 weeks on the US market, Celebrex notched up 2.44 million prescriptions, putting it in the same league for a newcomer as Viagra, the potency pill developed by Pfizer. The attraction of the drug is its apparent kindness to the stomach while tackling pain, especially among arthritis sufferers.

The future for Monsanto, therefore, is a puzzle. Some believe it must still find a buyer to correct its balance book, burdened by debt that equaled a whopping 59 per cent of market capitalisation at the end of 1998. But with Roundup and Celebrex, it seems to have two deep wells of easy revenue. And the outlook for its GM business, if the Shapiro analysis is correct, is still full of potential. This year about half of all cotton, soy and corn crops planted in the US will be with genetically altered seeds. Moreover, in the American market at least, the notion of GM foods seems to have left the public unfazed. But Monsanto still has this one, not insignificant problem: persuading the folks in the rest of the world, in Europe especially, that its genetic tampering will not one day backfire on us, unleashing who knows what kind of punishment from an enraged Mother Nature.



This picture (and front page): Protesting against so-called Frankenstein Foods



Glimpse of victory in the war on boom and bust

The critics should note that the new regime is showing every sign of achieving what it was supposed to: low inflation with stable growth and interest rates.

Care homes lose battle to survive in funding crisis

"I need to be sending them to homes with no experience of looking after Alzheimer's, and everybody knows what happens to a person in that situation.

"I have a loan of £1.2m from a bank which is now pressuring me. My place goes bust, the Halifax will move in and I'll get nothing. I've got 20 people working for me and 70 people in the home. This is a picture which could be repeated a thousand times across the country."



All they wanted was a product they could understand

The insurance industry can only do so much, and it's important that these products come in a basket of welfare products. We have to work in a *much wider field* than just within our industry.

“MY BIGGEST mistake was to think that financial advice was always required to go along with pension products. The key thing is

A bitter pill to swallow

It will take some strong medicine to restore British Biotech to health. Will its recovery be aided now that it has a doctor at the helm?

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

THIS IS a story about hubris on a grand scale. It is also the story of those left behind to sort out the mess. At its peak, British Biotech, once the great white hope of the UK life sciences industry, had a stock market value of more than £1 billion. Armed with a portfolio of chemical compounds which management hinted might have blockbuster potential in the treatment of cancer and pancreatitis, the company was able to raise hundreds of millions of pounds from investors to fund ambitious expansion plans into a fully fledged international pharmaceutical company.

The remnants of this grandiose strategy are still there to be seen in the shape of Biotech's sprawling new, modernistic, glass-fronted headquarters on the outskirts of Oxford. In other respects, however, British Biotech is but a pale shadow of its former self, its share price shot to bits, its founders and driving spirits sacked or gone, and its products of questionable if any value.

What went wrong and what hope now for this one-time wonder stock?

British Biotech started in the late Eighties in an old warehouse as a loss-making drug research company. By the mid 1990s, it had outgrown these small beginnings to become the flagship of the burgeoning biotech sector. Its chief executive, Keith McCullagh, in a fit of grandeur he later came to regret, said his company would be the "new Glaxo" - an all-encompassing pharmaceutical giant able to discover, produce and sell its own drugs. Disaster struck shortly afterwards.

Last year, the company sacked its head of research, Andrew Millar, after he broke the secrecy of some clinical trials and voiced his concerns over British Biotech's drugs to shareholders. The public row set off legal action against Dr Millar, an inquiry by the London and New York stock exchanges, and even a probe by the House of Commons.

"Millargate" also caused a collapse in the company's share price, and plunged the sector into a crisis from which it has still to recover.

A boardroom clear out was inevitable. Biotech's "success", it appeared, had been largely fantasy. Its foundations were of sand - little more than the overblown hopes of investors, and more particularly, British Biotech's management. The chairman, John Raisman, retired and the chairman of the building material group RMC, Christopher Hampson, took his place. Dr McCullagh was replaced seven months ago by Elliot Goldstein, from the pharmaceutical group SmithKline Beecham.

The 48-year-old Canadian has the unenviable task of resurrecting a company now on its knees. Dr Goldstein was forced to scrap



McCullagh: Founder of British Biotech, chief executive to 1998



Millar: Head of research at British Biotech to April 1998

one of British Biotech's star drugs, the anti-pancreatitis treatment Zacutax, after a series of inconclusive trials. He also had to oversee a disappointing set of results for Marimastat, the anti-cancer drug which represents British Biotech's remaining hope of becoming profitable in the medium-term.

Dr Goldstein is not daunted by the enormity of the task. "When I joined, I was really impressed by the science, but I felt that the company needed a vision and a road map," he said. "The vision which existed before got lost because of all the events, the external problems and the Millar affair. When I arrived, it had evaporated."

He plans to replace the lost vision with a radical and painful return to basics. His mantra, repeated almost obsessively, is "focus". Gone is the ill-fated dream of the "new Glaxo". Dr Goldstein believes British Biotech must become a "new British Biotech": a small, but sound drug development company.

The first step is to get the clinical house in order. Dr Goldstein believes that the idea of producing drugs from the cradle of research to the grave of market launch is not viable for a company of British Biotech's size.

He will seek agreements with partners to help fund the development of its compounds. The world's top 20 pharmaceutical companies and the eight top biotechnology groups have been contacted with a view to co-funding.

The strategy is a radical departure from Dr McCullagh's grandiose ideas, but it is widely used by other biotechnology groups. Its biggest benefit is that it allows companies to cut the substantial costs of testing their compounds.

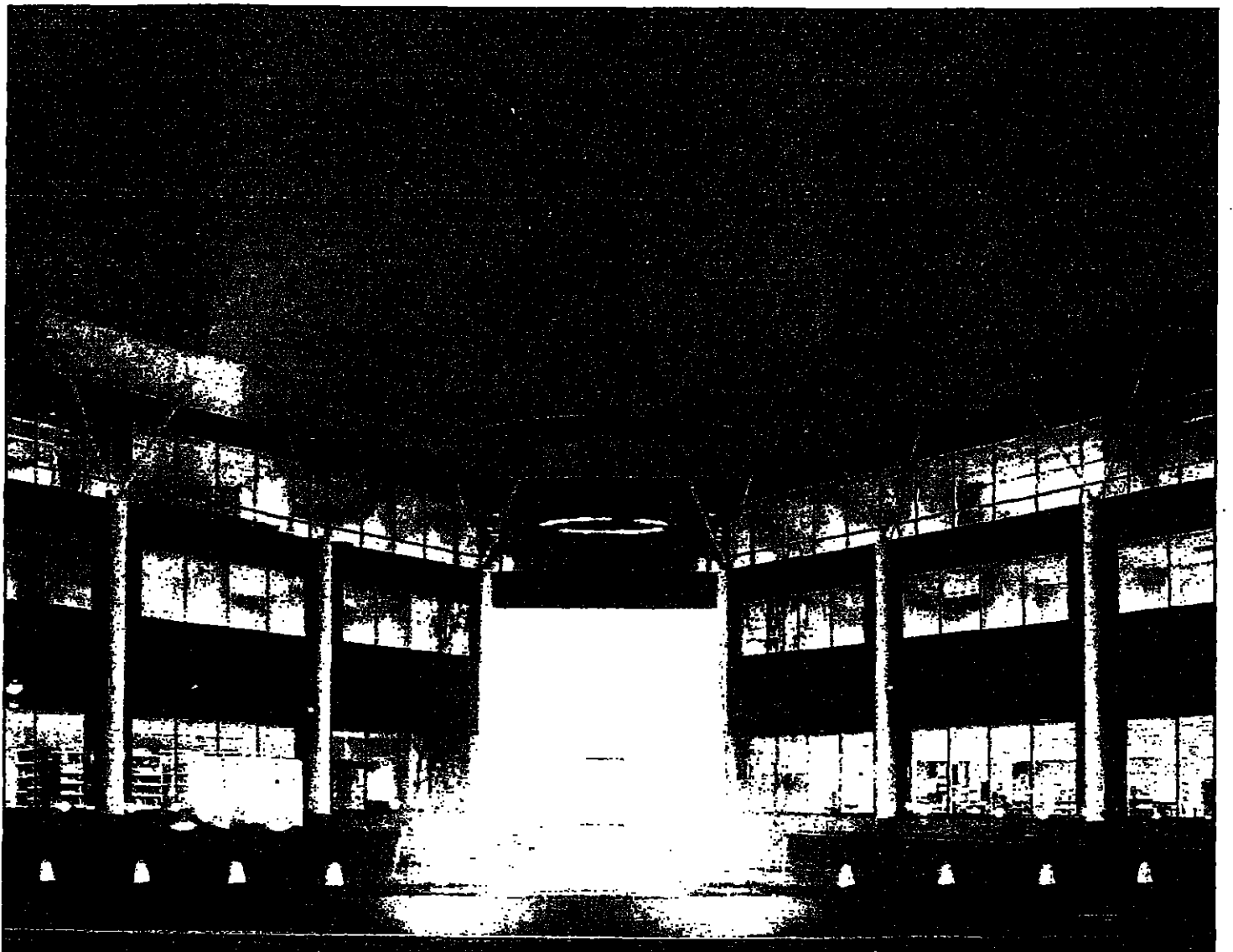
Under the present regime, drugs must undergo three sets of rigorous clinical trials before being submitted for regulatory approval. The trials last for years and can be expensive in the extreme. More importantly, only a small percentage of drugs make it to the market, leaving companies with losing compounds large costs and no rewards.

The drawback of Dr Goldstein's strategy is that if the British Biotech drugs do work, then its partner will claim a large chunk of sales revenue. But Dr Goldstein feels the new policy will help British Biotech to be more efficient and better to "focus" its resources. "Among biotechnology companies, there is a strong push, which you have to resist, to move too quickly from Phase II (of clinical trials) to the (final) Phase III. A lot of companies will take risks to get to Phase III." Working with a partner will help British Biotech to cut losses and scrap projects which are proving unpromising.

Dr Goldstein's second task is to restore the morale of the company's 300 employees. "There was a lot of worry. People were justifiably upset and concerned because they were reading a lot of things about their company. The company was portrayed as a kind of villain."

The chief executive embarked immediately on a round of breakfast meetings with employees of every rank in an effort to understand their gripes and allay their fears. He told them the company's scientific expertise was "world class, up there with the best" and tried to reassure them the bad times were over.

By all accounts, Dr Goldstein is an excellent communicator, with a genial character, and his words probably prevented an exodus of scientific expertise. But not even he could disguise the brutal news delivered to staff in March. The company decided to shrink its US operations and its Oxford-based



British Biotech's impressive Oxford headquarters belie the fact that the company is now a pale shadow of its former self

administrative staff, shedding 60 jobs. At the time, the group said the redundancies were another step towards a leaner British Biotech, but some of the remaining staff were alarmed by the cost-cutting drive.

But even if the drugs deliver and the scientists remain on board, the new British Biotech will be nothing without the support of investors. During its tribulations, the company committed a cardinal sin in any fund manager's eyes: it appeared to mislead investors.

When Dr Millar told a couple of shareholders that some of the stock exchange announcements on Zacutax and Marimastat were in danger of not being borne out by the tests, he broke the magic link between the company and the City that had propelled British Biotech shares to over 300p from the 42.5p of the 1993 flotation. The company vigorously rebutted the allegations,

claiming Dr Millar's assertions were unfounded sour grapes after being passed over for promotion.

However, British Biotech's protestations of innocence did little to stop the rot. The share price went into freefall and the company, which was once on the threshold of the FTSE-100, was plunged into crisis. Today, the stock is worth a mere 18.5p, a 93 per cent fall from its peak in April 1996.

To add insult to injury, British Biotech is still living on the funds raised during its love affair with the stock market. The group netted almost £240m in three fund-raising rounds between 1994 and 1996. A large chunk of the funds is still there in the shape of a £105m cash pile, helping British Biotech to continue operating even if it does not make a penny for another three years.

The two on-going investigations by the London and New York stock

market regulators over the allegedly misleading statements are continuing severely to damage the company's standing and Dr Goldstein is keenly aware that he has a mountain to climb in re-establishing credibility.

On one thing Dr Goldstein is adamant. He will never fuel the market's optimistic expectations. He has already said the company is capable of getting one new compound into development per year on average for the next three or four years, but he will not be drawn on the details. "We have to get to the point where people think that what we say is fair, balanced and accurate," he said.

This will be an awesome task. Many experts believe the credibility gap between the company and the market is now so wide that the share price will remain depressed until British Biotech produces some successful drug trial results.

Nick Woolf, senior analyst at BancBoston Robertson Stephens, the US bank, says: "They have to produce the data or sign a major pharmaceutical company as a partner."

The moment of truth could be around the corner. The results of several key clinical trials are to be published over the next 18 months. After the demise of Zacutax, the company is concentrating on Marimastat, an interesting, but as yet unproven, compound. The drug is part of a new class of agents, called metalloproteinase inhibitors (MMPis) which differ from existing therapies because they attack the

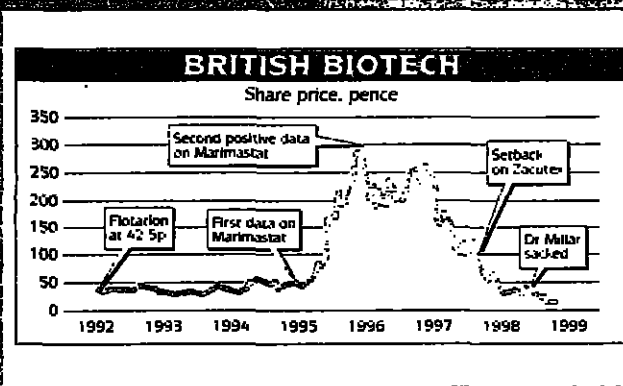
cancer-causing agents rather than targeting the tumour.

British Biotech's expertise in MMPis gives it a clear edge over its rivals, and there are rumours that SmithKline Beecham is interested in partnering Marimastat. But the drug's results have been disappointing so far, and SKB, or any other partner, is unlikely to come on board unless there is solid evidence that it works. Over the next 18 months, British Biotech expects to publish the outcome of further tests, which will determine the future of the drug, and perhaps of the company. Some industry experts believe that scrapping Marimastat could spell the end of British Biotech, but Dr Goldstein's scientists are more upbeat. They say two other compounds at an earlier development stage could sustain the group even if Marimastat failed. The two drugs could be followed by three other compounds.

The other crucial element to regaining investor confidence is a resolution of the Millar affair. The two sides have traded writs and are due to appear in court in autumn.

A long public trial revisiting the details of a case punctuated by personal rivalries, mistakes and sheer incompetence, will hardly help Biotech's case, and the company is trying to reach an out-of-court settlement. Dr Goldstein believes that an end to the legal wrangling is important - but not too important, and he claims the company should focus on only one thing: "Results. At the end of the day, investors want results."

IN SIGHT AND IN HEALTH



Founded: in 1986 in an old carpet warehouse in Cowley, near Oxford, by Keith McCullagh and Sir Brian Richards, two former executives of the US drug company GD Searle.
Turnover in 1998: £450,000
Pre-tax loss in 1998: £42.7m
Employees: 290
Major Product: Marimastat, an anti-cancer compound currently in the third and final phase of clinical trials. Results expected over the next few months.

THE PLAYER: REBECCA THOMAS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF JOHNSON FRY

Reformer demystifying fund management

BY NICOLA REEVES

PERSONAL DETAILS: Age 36. Lives in Docklands, east London. Drives a Porsche Carrera. Salary £225,000. An ardent Francophile, she spends weekends in her house in the south of France. Enjoys good food and wine. To mitigate the effects of the latter she works out four times a week. She also enjoys horse racing and collecting Art Deco furniture.

CHALLENGE: For Johnson Fry, the challenge is to grow the fund management business profitably. A challenge for the industry is to demystify financial services, says Ms Thomas. "I am quite messianic about getting women to take responsibility for their own finances," she says. She also believes that people should begin their financial planning at a young age.

CORPORATE BACKGROUND: Ms Thomas trained as a barrister. In 1987 she switched to fund management, joining Framlington as a small companies analyst. After 10 years with the company, Ms Thomas had become a director.

She was headhunted by Johnson Fry in 1996, became head of asset management and was appointed chief executive in 1997. "I wanted to run my own show. I have always been ambitious," says Ms Thomas. Since taking over as chief executive she has introduced sweeping changes to both the corporate culture and business activities.

STRATEGY: The focus is firmly on fund management, solely for retail investors. To that end, Johnson Fry has disposed of two businesses,

non-core functions have been outsourced and staff numbers have more than halved to 80. Senior management has been changed and a new sales approach has been adopted. Product brochures aim to be as user-friendly as possible and use similar language to that used elsewhere in the retail industry. The core business has been radically restructured in the past 12 months. "It's been incredibly enjoyable but hugely challenging," says Ms Thomas.

Historically, Johnson Fry was known for its telephone-based sales of tax-driven products such as business expansion schemes. Now its products, which include unit trusts and individual savings accounts (ISAs), are marketed through a regional sales force to independent financial advisers (IFAs). "Every

product we offer is designed to meet the needs of the retail investor," says Ms Thomas. As such, the fund managers adopt a risk-averse approach.

Companies are thoroughly researched before they are acquired for the funds and the shares tend to be held on average for three years. The focus is on liquidity and so in the UK the funds are primarily focused on companies with a market capitalisation in excess of £500m.

Johnson Fry has eight unit trusts, which Ms Thomas describes as "an interesting fund range", both general and specialist. It includes a telecoms fund that invests primarily in the shares of multinational telecom and telecom-related companies quoted on liquid and well-regulated stock

markets. The aim is to provide investors with capital growth in the medium to long term. There is an in-house team of 12 investment professionals and three external investment advisors.

This combination of in-house and third-party managers has enabled Johnson Fry to offer a broad range of funds fairly rapidly. Funds under management ended last year up 25 per cent at £1.18bn.

The funds' performances have benefited from being overweight in companies such as Vodafone, Lloyds TSB and Telecom Italia. Stocks chosen tend to have strong cash generation, operate in growth markets, have a leading position within their market and have management with demonstrable track records.

A Johnson Fry interactive web-

site has recently been established for both IFAs and direct investors. It contains information and runs a fantasy fund manager competition.

"The aim is to make it entertaining and user friendly," says Ms Thomas. It remains to be seen whether the Internet will become an important distribution channel in its own right for financial products in the UK. In the US, more than 30 per cent of retail financial business is done on-line. "As a small, forward-looking company we must be there at the earliest opportunity," says Ms Thomas.

She says that if the Internet becomes widely used by the industry, it could be "massively deflationary", because of the associated reduction in paperwork and marketing.

MANAGEMENT STYLE: "Lively and open," says Ms Thomas. The culture is open and democratic with a youthful main board, and with women equally represented.

MOST ADMIRERS IN BUSINESS: "People who have done turnarounds." Ms Thomas mentions Archie Norman, chairman of Asda, and Jim Leng, chief executive of Laporte. "Managing a turnaround is quite a different skill to taking on a successful company. You need a lot of energy and drive and have got to be a pretty strong character to carry people with you," she says.

CITY VERDICT: Johnson Fry has won a number of Micropal awards for the performance of its unit trusts and investment trusts.

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THE CANARY

Cable twist: Eurotunnel has generated considerable excitement with the news that it is to run even more fibre optic telecoms links through its hole in the ground. Such "dry" cabling, it claims, is far more efficient than "wet" cables sitting on the seabed. So can someone explain why it costs more to telephone from Dover to Calais than from the Isle of Eigg to Hawaii?

Medic Alert: Barclays insists it has disclosed the truth and nothing but – so there can be no excuse for the continuing scepticism of many in the City for the now-you-see-him-now-you-don't drama of Michael O'Neill, whose cardiovascular system was blamed for not being up to the job. What else does Barclays insist is true? Sir Peter Middleton, acting chief executive, and the Barclays board, have ruled out selling. "I can't see the Bank of England standing by and allowing a hostile bid," sniffs a trader at Barclays Capital. Why not?

Millennium Bug Panic: Millennium bug hysteria is at fever pitch in The City where Christmas leave is being cancelled for thousands of operations staff. But the smart money is now moving to the view that the scare has been blown out of all proportion. Most computers seem to crash on a daily basis in any case.

Bank on the run: Reeling from its losses in Russia and criticism from all sides, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is trying to salvage its reputation at its annual general meeting in London. The new president, Horst Koehler has had his work cut out trying to keep delegates and shareholders pacified. As for the Russians, their government presentation consisted of one message: "We're sorry, please send more money."

Church drops BAE shares: The Church of England appears to have belatedly noticed that British Aerospace is an arms manufacturer and hence intends to sell its substantial shareholding. But there is an argument that many of the weapons built by BAE are of doubtful lethality at the best of times and hence it remains perfectly ethical to own shares. The Eurofighter, approaching £100m a copy, is the most expensive thing ever purchased by British taxpayers. It has been contributing to BAE profits for almost 20 years, but has never fired a shot in anger – and may never do so, since it was designed to fight a Russian air threat that no longer exists.

Ed Wallis
Chairman & Chief Executive,
PowerGen

I THINK that Ian Robinson, Chief Executive of ScottishPower, is very impressive. First and foremost he's a good businessman. His sound judgement and all-round competence have been integral to his company's success over the past few years. In addition, he's not at all arrogant about his achievements. He's the sort of honest, open and capable man whom I believe most people would admire and respect.

Our sector is highly regulated, strategically important to the economy and always close to the top of any government's agenda. Running a company successfully, delivering value to shareholders whilst meeting your regulatory obligations, looking after your employees and playing a responsible role in the community is therefore a very challenging balancing act. During the time that Ian Robinson has been there, ScottishPower has become one of only two truly substantial independent companies in our sector that command wide respect – the other being PowerGen of course.

Bruno Lescoeur
Chairman & Chief Executive,
London Electricity

Although I am new to London Electricity, I have followed the energy business in this country with great interest from across the Channel. The British energy industry is never dull but it requires unrelenting determination. John Guinness, chairman of British Nuclear Fuel Limited, first impressed me in the run-up to the electricity industry's privatisation back in 1990.

In particular, I remember his determination throughout the privatisation process while he was at the Department of Energy – not an easy task. He has shown great character in adapting BNFL to the changing environments in which it operates, whilst maintaining the long-term potential of the nuclear industry.

I must mention PowerGen's Ed Wallis for his determination and decisive action in making PowerGen such a force to be reckoned with. It could not have been easy building the business out of the nationalised Central Electricity Generating Board. He has built an incredibly strong brand, and he is now realising the dream of running a fully integrated company.

Jim Forbes of Scottish and Southern Energy is widely acknowledged as one of the industry's strongest characters. The merger of Scottish and Southern Hydro, very different companies and geographically distant, was a bold and original move that has underlined Jim's consistent ambition to be an important player in the industry.

Mike Hughes
Chief Executive,
Midlands Electricity
I admire a lot of people within our industry, so it is difficult to single out anyone specific. I think I'd have to nominate Ed Wallis of PowerGen though. He started from a relatively weak position and has taken the company to exactly where he said that he would. Then there's Keith Henry of National Power whom I admire even though he's getting a lot of bad press at the moment. He too



Ed Wallis of PowerGen is widely admired for his determination and ability to take decisive action

Financial Times

has taken the company to where he said he would, thanks to his focus and determination.

ScottishPower with Ian Robinson has also done well – but they have no excuse not to because they are in a part of the country where competition is less vigorous. Having said that, they've got a good company and a good man heading them up, I reckon they've got the best chance of us all of becoming a key international player.

Nick Clarke
Chief Executive,
Quantum Energy Group
This is a real teaser as I don't feel that there is anyone who has their head above the crowd, as it were. I do think, though, that Centrica with Roy Gardner has recovered

tremendously well from their "take-or-pay" problems. I think that Roy is a very impressive guy who instigated their recovery from a situation that looked very bad for them.

Another man of energy whom I admire is John Devaney who used to head up Eastern Group but left at the end of last year and is currently trying to get a power consortium together. He was a major figure in the process of bringing the utilities industry up to date. I've got immense respect for him as a person too.

And finally, I have to mention Ed Wallis of PowerGen. He has always stood out as a bit of a figurehead for me – he is always at the forefront of things in terms of the power market.

Graham Hall
Chief Executive,
Yorkshire Electricity

I think, were I to choose one person in the industry who impresses me, it would have to be Duncan Whyte of ScottishPower. Alongside us and Eastern, ScottishPower has spearheaded the opening up of the world electricity market.

Furthermore, at forums he is a major contributor – really hands-on. Duncan is a man with vision and stature and very clear, very good ideas. He's an intelligent man and a good thinker – in fact he'd make a great Yorkshireman!

I admire his direct, pragmatic approach to business. He has no airs and graces, which means he can communicate just as well with those on the floor as with those right at the

top of the industry. The proof of the pudding is his track record, which is a good one: in the past seven years he has increased ScottishPower's market capital by an impressive margin. For all these reasons, he's the chap I most admire in the energy business at the moment.

Neil Tribick
Director,
The Gas Company

It's a difficult task to pick someone out in our industry because, to be honest, there's nobody impressive around at the moment. There aren't any great personalities. The only man who ever did impress me was Sir James McKinnon, the first director general of Ofgas.

He was at the forefront of regulation when it happened in our

industry and was all for freedom of choice for the consumer. He did stand out and was a very dynamic worker.

He fought a great battle to create that competitive edge, which enabled all of our companies – gas, electricity and oil – to compete and to create a new kind of industry. As a champion of the buyer he was tremendous, and he was equally good from the perspective of the supplier.

He was a thoroughly exceptional force in the industry and has been served well by his experience of big industry. He's not an academic but a businessman and an honest man. He's really the only one I could possibly pick out.

Peter Sulley
Managing Director,
Independent Energy UK

As the power industry currently stands, I think the person whom I am most impressed by is Jim Whelan of Eastern Power and Trading.

I think it is in great part thanks to him and his vision that the company stands out as it does in terms of the way it has created a functional integrated operation and the way in which it is increasingly becoming a serious player on the world-wide stage.

If you try to look further for a another personality, there's quite a big gap in terms of doing something no-one else has done. There's nothing particularly fresh or interesting going on anywhere else. An equally impressive figure is John Devaney formerly of Eastern. The concept of integration really came from him. He also instigated a fresh look at regional energy companies.

Other companies seem to be still very much rooted in the past regarding work processes and structuring. John took a look at the market and readjusted his service accordingly – he saw that value lay in both the production side of power and the supply side. Most of the regulated companies look at the past but both men mentioned above are acutely aware of what the future could hold. It's their freshness of vision that I admire.

Roy Gardner
Chief Executive,
Centrica

A formidable man in energy at the moment has to be Ian Robinson of ScottishPower. Under his aegis, the company has grown from a regional electricity firm to a major national business. He has also successfully pushed the business into new areas such as telecommunications and water.

He has steered the company smoothly through acquisitions while others have struggled somewhat through them. His success has been due to his vision and his ability to build a very good team around him.

What I do think is vital to success, particularly where Centrica is concerned, is the quality of customer service – as that is how we interface with our customers. In this highly competitive business and era, the quality of customer service has to be superior if you want to succeed.

INTERVIEWS BY
SALLY CHATTERTON

BOOK OF THE WEEK

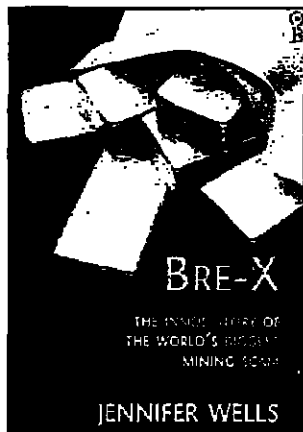
A mine is a hole with a crook on top

ON JOINING the venture capital business 20 years ago, my first boss advised me that each day two people enter the business world. One has a plausible idea for making a lot of money, an idea which is subtly but fatally flawed. The other has invented a new way to defraud you. "Your job is to avoid dealing with both," he said. With this resonating in my mind I plunged into Jennifer Wells' book with interest. What I discovered was a ripping tale of the mining industry. The story is quite simple. In the early Nineties a tiny Canadian shell company called Bre-X started prospecting for gold deep in the heart of the Indonesian jungle at a place called Busang. Following a series of press releases which made ever-more optimistic, but clearly false, claims about the nature of the prospect, Bre-X claimed to have discovered the largest deposit of gold in the world. Support for this story was

BRE-X – the inside story of the world's biggest mining scam
by Jennifer Wells
(Orion Business, £9.99)

provided by several mining analysts at well-regarded investment banks.

Little more than a year later, Freeport McMoran, who had negotiated the right to buy into this "reserve" completed its review of Bre-X's drilling programme only to discover that the prospect was barren. It became clear that for the previous four years a small group of Bre-X employees had been "salting" the core samples, adding traces of gold to otherwise worthless rock before it went to be tested. Needless to say the share price of Bre-X crashed, many investors lost money and several reputations were tarnished. What did I learn from this? More than I thought. First, it sheds some light on the world of mining. The behaviour of



some of the world's largest mining houses, if Wells' account is in fact true, could never be described as proper. The processes adopted by this junior mining company and, on face value, accepted by analysts and some of the larger industry players leave a lot to be desired. Obvious gaps in due diligence and the failure to sense warning signs are a constant feature.

We are also provided with a primer into how to do business in Indonesia. The name of the game here was to plug into the right areas, with the assistance of a local business magnate blind-siding government officials.

Turning back to the stock market and Toronto, the promoter David Walsh successfully pushed the stock through the stratosphere, avoiding all the filters that for normal companies prevent abuse of the market. In this case, a heady combination of untold riches (the "proven reserves") which were used to stimulate demand and a short supply of stock (cash needs were modest relative to market capitalisation) led to a gold fever.

Myth became reality, the final episode of this "Emperor's Clothes" tale of the capital markets is that Bre-X entered the Toronto Index and accordingly its shares were bought by "no-risk" tracker funds.

I found it sad that the personalities behind this scam were people who, in the main, had achieved little. In short, mediocre managers with scrappy track records succeeded in duping the industry and the markets.

One question that remains unanswered is who was in on this fraud. De Guzman, the ambitious Filipino who perpetrated the salting scam, was either killed or committed suicide. The promoter, David Walsh, died from a coronary shortly after the crash. Nobody knows whether Walsh and his colleagues in Canada had knowledge of de Guzman's activities. Only Felderhoff, the self-styled Indiana Jones of mining, survives.

This is a very intriguing yarn, which brought together both of the people my boss warned me not to deal with. Bre-X suggests that the definition of a mine is a hole in the ground with a crook on top.

IAN ARMITAGE

MY FAVOURITE RESTAURANT

The best French chips

RICHARD HUNTINGFORD, chief executive of Chrysalis Radio, is so enamoured of his favourite restaurant, being nearer to it was a factor when looking for a new house four years ago.

Now he lives practically on the doorstep of Sonny's, in the media village of Barnes, South-west London. "It's such a good restaurant I'm amazed the estate agents in Barnes don't add it to their list of fine features of the area," he enthuses.

"It was one of the first restaurants producing dishes that were different. It was way ahead of the pack."

However, Mr Huntingford, 42, admits he's no restaurant critic. Pushed to sum up Sonny's fare, he opts for "modern cuisine".

It takes no pushing, though, for him to outline some of its dishes: a starter could be asparagus, dandelion leaves, quail eggs, parmesan, crackling and truffle oil; for the



He swears by Sonny's French-style chips: "I defy anyone to better them."

Mr Huntingford, whose background is in accountancy, says managers Susi and Graeme are so passionate about the restaurant it is as if you are eating in their own home. Waiter Chris, with his "rat-tail dreadlocks and grunge-style romantic" attire, adds to the ambience.

He took David Jensen there when "The Kid" signed to Chrysalis's Heart 106.2. "The media business is very much a people business," he explains. "If you can find a restaurant you feel comfortable with, it can be a good way to cement relationships and talk about issues."

"Having said that," he adds, "I don't spend all my time going out to lunch."

NAOMI MARKS

Sonny's, 94 Church Road, Barnes, London SW13 (Telephone 0181-748 0393)

With-profits endowments could be your loss

IS THERE any future for the with-profits type of endowment policy, a staple offering of the life insurance business for many years? The question is hardly new, but it is worth asking again, given the current state of the investment markets and the rapid recent changes in the sophistication of the financial markets.

As most people know, with-profits policies are designed to cater to the needs of relatively low-risk investors. What they aim to do is to smooth out the annual ups and downs of the financial markets through a system of annual and final bonuses. If you buy a with-profits policy, you are in effect backing the tortoise over the hare, judging that a slow but steady approach will come out ahead over the long haul.

If you want a full exposure to the markets, and are wedded to insurance company products, then you always have the option of a unit-linked policy instead, whose value rises and falls broadly (but after costs) in line with the behaviour of the

markets. Alternatively you can opt for a unit trust or investment trust to do the job instead. There are a sufficient variety around these days to allow you to match your risk profile to that of an appropriate fund.

With-profits policies are something of a throwback to another era: they conjure up inevitable images of dour Scottish actuaries grimly shepherding your money behind closed doors. One of the most striking features of the traditional with-profits policy is that your money is taken away and invested without your ever having much say about what happens to it. The discretion of the investment manager is almost total. The annual bonuses are declared by fiat. So too is the final bonus, which these days amounts to an increasingly large proportion of the final value of the policy - anything from 20 per cent for an average 10-year policy to 57 per cent for an average 25-year policy, according to the latest survey of performance figures by *Money Management* magazine.

In most cases, as thousands of mortgage holders have learnt to their cost, you will also be penalised heavily if you stop making your premium payments for whatever reason before the end of your term. In the case of 20 or 25-year endowment policies, the risk of surrender penalties means that you may be tied in for at least half your working life to the same manager with very little you can do about it if he fails to do a good job. (This does not stop around one in five endowment policies being surrendered within four years, according to the Personal Investment Authority.)

Flexibility in other words is not the name of the game with with-profits endowments. This would not matter so much if the performance of the funds was better than it has been. However, if you have opted for a low-risk investment, you can hardly complain if the performance is not as good as if you had invested your money 100 per cent in the stock market during what has been



JONATHAN DAVIS

You are backing the tortoise over the hare, judging that a slow but steady approach will come out ahead over the long haul

one of the greatest bull markets of the century.

Taking *Money Management's* figures, the average return on a 10-year with-profits policy maturing in 1990 was 14.1 per cent, or 7.9 per cent in real terms. For the past five years the equivalent real return on maturing policies has been between 5 per cent and 6 per cent. On my reckoning this is somewhere between 30 per cent and 60 per cent below the real 10-year return on the stock market during that period - which in part reflects the fact that shares account for between 50 per cent and 80 per cent of an endowment policy's assets (the rest is in bonds and property).

What has always dragged down with-profits policies' performance has been their costs. The average "reduction on yield" on a 10-year with-profits endowment policy today is 1.5 per cent for a 25-year policy; 1.7 per cent for a 20-year policy; 2.2 per cent for a 15-year policy and a horrific 3.3 per cent for a

10-year policy (and this is just an average figure: the highest cost policies go up to 4.0 per cent; the lowest, Equitable Life, is 1.6 per cent). Any investment with that kind of cost burden to carry is always going to be struggling to earn its corn, not least because you would normally expect lower risk funds to have lower costs than higher risk ones.

With the proliferation of competing products now around, it certainly seems inevitable that unless insurance companies attack their costs and make more disclosure about what their investment policies are, then the days of the with-profits fund will indeed be numbered.

But there is nothing wrong with the concept of a fund that "smooths" the risks of financial markets over time. One final statistic caught my eye from the *Money Management* survey: For 25-year policies, the average real return has doubled from less than 2.5 per cent for policies maturing in 1990 to 5.3 per cent for those ma-

turing this year. Is that good or bad? Well, it all depends. If you had been offered a 5 per cent real return 25 years ago most people would have said yes: 3 per cent for a low-risk investment is a very good outcome, when set against the stock market's long run 6-7 per cent. But if it had been 2.5 per cent, you could do better with most alternatives.

The real question that insurers have to answer now with endowments is: how does anyone know what they are buying any more? There doesn't seem to be much "smoothing" going on when a 25-year investment can produce a real return of 2.5 per cent one year and more than twice that return just nine years later. (To be fair, there are some honourable exceptions.) Add to that the fact that you don't know until very late in the day how big the terminal bonus is going to be, except that it will be more than half the value of the fund, and one has to ask whether the with-profits fund is really such a low-risk investment after all.

Should you invest in... food retailers?

BY KEIRON ROOT

KINGFISHER'S surprise £6bn swoop on the food retailer Asda last week cast a light on the food retailing sector, which has been largely ignored by investors over the past couple of years.

The qualities that have traditionally made the supermarkets popular defensive stocks at times of market volatility have simply turned off investors and the sector's problems increased by the investigation by Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) of complaints that they were overcharging consumers.

"It has been a very difficult sector to call over the past 18 months to 2 years," says Alan Perkins of Pavilion Asset Management. "Tesco has produced some very good numbers and is clearly the sector leader at the moment, but if you had stuck with quality and held Tesco you would still have underperformed the market."

Hilary Cook, sector analyst at Barclays Stockbrokers says: "The sector has been ridiculously oversold. Food retailers are not that much different from general retailers, but they have been largely shunned by the market. "The supermarkets have great out-of-town locations and they know their customers extremely well. These are supposed to be the big factors in retailing and the supermarkets are way ahead of everyone else."

Ian Brown of Norwich Union's investment management division says: "Supermarkets certainly wouldn't be my favourite place to invest at the moment. Over and above the MMC question, the major factor affecting the food retailing sector is that the market simply doesn't want to know about these plodding, relatively safe companies."

"Investors decided we are not going into recession and in a recovery there are much more exciting things to put your money into."

Christopher Willmott, director of institutional equities at Hill Samuel, says: "It is a very interesting time for food retailers because if you look at it from the macro point of view you see that demand is not strong but capacity is very strong. What you

have, despite strong cash flow, is a sector that is declining and that is not a great scenario for investors looking for growth."

The result has been that the food retailers have been amassing a lot of cash, but have not been entirely sure what to do with it. Ian Brown says: "If you have excess cash you can do one of two things: return it to shareholders, through a buyback for example, or buy something with it. The supermarkets have been investing it in anything and everything they can find."

"In the case of Sainsbury's, there have been disastrous ventures in the US, and with Tesco it is the still-to-be-proven investment in Eastern Europe. Supermarket managements are a pretty arrogant bunch and they have not learnt the humility required to hand back cash to investors." But this sleepy sector has cracked into life following the news of Asda's proposed merger with the general retailing group Kingfisher. "What Kingfisher is in effect saying is that MMC's report is not going to be that significant," says Hilary Cook.

"I don't see what the MMC can actually do. It can't tell the supermarkets to cut prices, since there is a high degree of price competition between the retailers anyway and all that would happen is that price cuts would force even more smaller retailers out of business."

Christopher Willmott says: "I would have thought that investors with food retailing stocks should hang on in there. The MMC will continue to create uncertainty but Kingfisher has clearly identified value within the sector and it is unlikely to be the only one."

Ian Brown has misgivings over the MMC investigation. "We do feel for the supermarkets on this one. They seem to have been targeted by a not very competent government minister with an axe to grind."

"The one thing you can say for them is that they are not making monopoly profits. Most are currently showing a return on capital of 12 to 13 per cent which is probably only



From their first store in Drury Lane, central London, J Sainsbury has built up a formidable retail food chain

Fluton Getty

a couple of points above their costs. Compare that with some of the banks, that are showing an ROC of 25 per cent plus and are getting away with it."

Hilary Cook agrees. "The MMC report has effectively stopped any merging within the sector, such as the Asda/Safeway tie-up which looked on the cards last year. What you may well see is the effective merger of two sectors, as food retailers and general retailers come closer together."

And Ian Brown points out that this process was already developing, even before the Kingfisher/Asda tie-up. "You could say that they definitely are defensive stocks, although not as defensive as they used to be. For example, a material chunk of Asda's business is already non-food retailing, which is cyclical, and therefore, will be affected by economic conditions but will offer growth prospects at some point."

Christopher Willmott says: "The food retailers have always found

imaginative ways of taking money out of your pocket. They have been trying to expand sales into the 'grey market' and develop financial services and other associated services that will be driven off their existing asset base."

Hilary Cook sees two possibilities for further M&A activity. "There are two possible sorts of bidders, UK-based general retailers or overseas retailers. It has been often rumoured that Wal-Mart was looking at Asda and it may be that Asda decided to go with Kingfisher on a better-the-devil-you-know basis."

"It is still possible that Wal-Mart is looking around for a UK acquisition and last week's news will either flush out a higher bid for Asda or prompt it to go for another target, like Safeway." In fact, Wal-Mart undertook a major fund raising denominated in euros early last week, which gave further substance to this theory.

Alan Perkins says: "Prior to Kingfisher's move, there was a lot of spec-

ulation about Asda being the subject of a bid either from the German retailer Aldi or from Wal-Mart of the US. I think that there is definitely going to be some rationalisation of the sector, although the best in the sector, Tesco, is probably safe as it is so good at what it does."

"The obvious candidates for a takeover would probably be Safeway or one of the smaller retailers, such as Somerfield. But an overseas buyer may well look at Sainsbury which I would now say is a definite potential target."

Christopher Willmott believes the Kingfisher/Asda deal will both limit Safeway's options, because it removes Asda as a potential suitor, and also challenge Tesco's predominant position in food retailing. "The important question now is 'what is going to happen to Tesco?'" he says.

"Tesco has been very explicit in expanding primarily into Europe whilst also expanding its market share in the UK. It was doing this very successfully until last Friday,

with the Asda announcement, so there is likely to be more of a question mark over Tesco's ability to expand than there has been."

The creation of a new retailing giant will be felt throughout the sector. "The Kingfisher/Asda move puts Sainsbury's in a difficult position as well, following its own trading statement last week," Willmott adds. "I would argue that Sainsbury's' proposed solutions are not as comprehensive as they should be. It will be interesting to see what they end up doing, but if they are going to link up with someone else it is almost certain to be with an overseas partner."

Alan Perkins says: "The sector is still undervalued as a good business area with much quality management. If you are an overseas company wanting an acquisition, you would buy a quality business, like an Asda or a Sainsbury's, rather than a Safeway or a Somerfield, because you would have the right management already in place."

SHAREWATCH

BUY

Aberdeen Asset Management (140p), says Teather & Greenwood, which cites Aberdeen's sponsorship of the Boat Race as an indication of the fund manager's arrival as a significant national player. Three associated institutions hold 62 per cent of the shares, including Scottish Provident, a broker-dependent mutual, with 40.5 per cent. T&G has raised its recommendation in light of the fate of other mutuals and Prudential's purchase of M&G.

The welding and specialist engineering products group **Charter** is a buy (381p), says Kite Securities. The shares are cheap on a December 1999 price-earnings ratio of 7.2 and a dividend yield of 8.7 per cent, adds Kite.

SELL

PowerGen (708p), recommends Charles Stanley, pointing to increased competition and further electricity-pool price falls facing the generator. The broker notes that record availability of plant, and mild weather at the end of 1998, hit profits, which came in at £580m before tax, and has pencilled in £560m for this year and £550m for 2000, noting that, as a consequence of selling two plants in order to buy East Midlands Electricity, PowerGen's share of UK generation is set to fall from 25 to below 14 per cent, while it will also lose annual payments of £35m as its earn-out agreement with Eastern ends early.

ABN Amro has downgraded its rating on **Colt Telecom** from hold to overvalued (1,134p). With competition set to intensify, Colt's profits growth could be held back, warns ABN Amro. Although it would make strategic sense for Colt to expand its fibre optic networks to Eastern Europe and America, the start-up losses would push Colt further into the red during the early years of the next century, adds the broker, which has moved to a cautious stance on alternative network operators in general, following telecoms' 41 per cent outperformance last year.

NO PAIN, NO GAIN: OUR MAN'S PORTFOLIO

Take a tip from the boys in the boardroom

DIRECTOR BUYING can be a signal that shares are undervalued. If the boys in the boardroom, often with share options and other incentive perks, are prepared to put their hands in their pockets like any other investor, then they must think they are on to a good thing.

And they should know; they are obviously in the best position to appreciate how a company is faring. There have been some intriguing examples of the bosses picking up shares in the past few weeks.

Directors of Paramount, the pub chain, have topped up their admittedly modest shareholdings; the men at the Scotch whisky distiller Burn Stewart have been in the market and so have the leaders of John Lusty, the food group.

All three companies have experienced trading difficulties. Para-

mount and Burn Stewart are long-time members of the walking wounded brigade; John Lusty is a more recent casualty.

Paramount arrived on the stock market via a reverse takeover of a games group previously traded on one of the now defunct over-the-counter share markets which boomed briefly in the 1980s. It was probably the first of the now flourishing band of pub groups to come to the City.

It has not had a cheerful time. Profits have been erratic although some dividends have been paid. But its position deteriorated so alarmingly that a rescue operation had to be mounted with Paul Davies, an experienced pub man, drafted in as chief executive.

Burn Stewart's sobering time stemmed from its supermarket



DEREK PAIN

customers squeezing margins and problems in its important Taiwan market. Lusty appeared to be a growth stock until the dreaded profits warning arrived.

Naturally the trio's shares have

seen better days although the recent rounds of director buying have had the predictable impact. Paramount has risen from its 10p low to 15p, although the little tweak upwards is scant consolation for any unfortunate soul who piled in at 100p-plus. Burn Stewart is up from around 10p to 17.5p but has been as high as 144p. And Lusty, 4p to 5.75p, has reached 12.5p.

There are obviously reasons for looking at each of the dismal threesome with a view to investing. Paramount is back in profits: the Burn Stewart board, reporting increased interim losses of £2.5m against £1.7m, has said the company is over the worst and capable of returning to profit. And at John Lusty the warning was that trading had not lived up to best expectations but that profits for the year ending March would be "slightly" ahead of last year's £1.9m.

Of the three I think Paramount is the best bet. The undercard can be notoriously risky but the company seems to have put the dark days behind and seems well on the road to recovery.

The group has 149 pubs, all tenanted. It has spent heavily bringing its estate up to scratch after what would appear to have been a period of neglect. In the year to last May pre-tax profits came out at £539,000 against a £1.4m loss. For the six months to November profits were £236,000, up from £81,000.

Paramount is not paying preference dividends and the arrears are still mounting. It would be unwise to expect a return to ordinary dividend payments in the near future.

But the group is clearly on the comeback trail and it would not be surprising if it got involved in the

merger ferment which is enveloping the pub chains. It would make an ideal target for another quoted group or could easily be the vehicle for bringing one of the unquoted chains to market; most are backed by venture capitalists who must be keen to cash in their chips.

Paramount, which has been around so long as a quoted group it has acquired a rather tired investment image, has an impressive roll call of major shareholders.

Greenalls (15.5 per cent); Bass (4.2 per cent) and the Burtonwood Brewery (8.2 per cent) mostly collected their stakes in exchange for pubs. But Nomura, the Japanese investment bank which has emerged as the nation's biggest pub landlord, is sitting in there with 9.4 per cent and has yet to complete a pub deal with Paramount.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Beware the fall of a House of Cards

KATHARINE LEWIS

IF YOU have placed your money in an investment trust, you do so on the understanding that its fund manager will out-perform compared to a relevant index, based on his or her own individual flair. What you are unlikely to expect is that that fund manager has invested a large slice of his cash in another investment trust, which has placed a portion of its money in a third investment trust, which in turn is investing heavily in your own trust, or the shares of its parent company.

Some experts distrust this practice, fearing the collapse of shares held through an interconnected spiral of cross-ownership. Others argue that the practice of cross-holding trusts within a group can be used to narrow the discounts of all funds.

The "discount" is where the shares of an investment trust cost less to buy than the actual assets it holds. It is usually measured as a percentage, so if a share stands at a discount of 12 per cent to net asset value (NAV), this means you are buying 100p of assets for 88p. This may be attractive to the shareholders of the funds whose shares are being bought, but it may not be the best strategy for the investment trust doing the buying. Again, a conflict of interest could arise where shares in internal funds are favoured over those of external companies or funds that might otherwise be placed in the investment trust portfolio.

Cross-holdings do provide an extra layer of individual investment diversification, because the trust being bought will have invested in a wide range of companies. But the investor will lose diversification in

terms of management house style. Trusts become dependent on the success of the investment house and the investment trust team.

Peter Walls, investment trust analyst at Credit Lyonnais, believes there is little evidence that investment trusts buy shares in internal funds to reduce the discount, and adds that levels of cross-holdings are reducing across the industry as a whole. He says: "It is fair to say that cross-holdings in investment trusts of the same parent company are less common than they were 10 or 15 years ago in conventional investment trusts."

Investors should be aware of the potential problems related to cross-holdings in split capital investment trusts. The cross-holdings in the split capital sector have led to the feared "house of cards" scenario, where the failure of one trust severely affects the others in the circle.

A survey by Bloomberg Money reveals that out of the split capital trust sector, five funds typically have large numbers of investments in other split capital trusts among their top 10 holdings. These funds are BFS Income & Growth, Aberdeen's Danae and Jove trusts, Dartmoor (run by Exeter fund managers), Geared Income (run by Broker Financial Services) and INVESCO's City & Commercial split capital trust. All these companies, except INVESCO, have holdings in split capital trusts that invest in other split capital trusts as well - namely themselves. The split capital trusts held by INVESCO's fund invest in non-split capital investment

trust shares or shares of non-investment trust companies.

This is illustrated in the table on this page. For example, Danae has eight holdings of split capital investment trusts in its top 10, making up 26.7 per cent of the fund. Of these, two are split capital trusts that invest in other split capital trusts - Dartmoor and Geared Income (income shares and ordinary shares). But neither of these two trusts invest in Danae, so the circle between the three trusts is not complete.

But a true circle and "house of cards" scenario exists between Dartmoor and Geared Income, both of which invest in each other. This is highlighted by the fact that 3.1 per cent of Dartmoor is held in Geared Income trust, which has 8.4 per cent of Dartmoor. The performance of these two funds is highly interdependent. Mr Walls says: "At present, split capital funds with cross-holdings are doing well because interest rates have fallen and people invest in split capital trusts because they can generate a reasonable level of income. But problems might occur if that trend were to change and investors moved out of the funds."

Despite the possibility of increased risk, some industry experts believe split capital cross-holdings are no bad thing. Robin Minter Kemp, deputy managing director of HSBC, says split capital investors provide a steady base of investment in split capital funds. He says: "Because of the current economic environment of low interest rates, there is high demand for high-yielding split capital shares, but a short-

age of supply. As a result, many split capital funds invest in each other and this helps support the share price."

Although it is hard to imagine this beneficial circle turning into a vicious circle, that is exactly what happened in 1929 when the stockmarkets in the US and the UK crashed. Investors in closed-end funds, such as investment trusts, suffered particularly badly because the value of their shares fell even faster than the value of the assets in which such funds were invested.

Although the 1929 scenario is unlikely to occur again, the cross-holdings throughout the industry clearly increase risk and can confuse investors. Cross-holdings can make it more difficult for investors to assess exactly what a trust has invested in at the bottom line and such detailed information is often difficult to obtain.

Graham Campbell, head of UK large company investment at Edinburgh Fund Managers, believes investors should be wary of split capital trusts that have cross-holdings. He says: "Split capital trusts are already geared investments whose performance is more sharply affected by market conditions than standard trusts. So, if they invest in other split capital trusts, they are effectively increasing their gearing and risk even more for their investors."

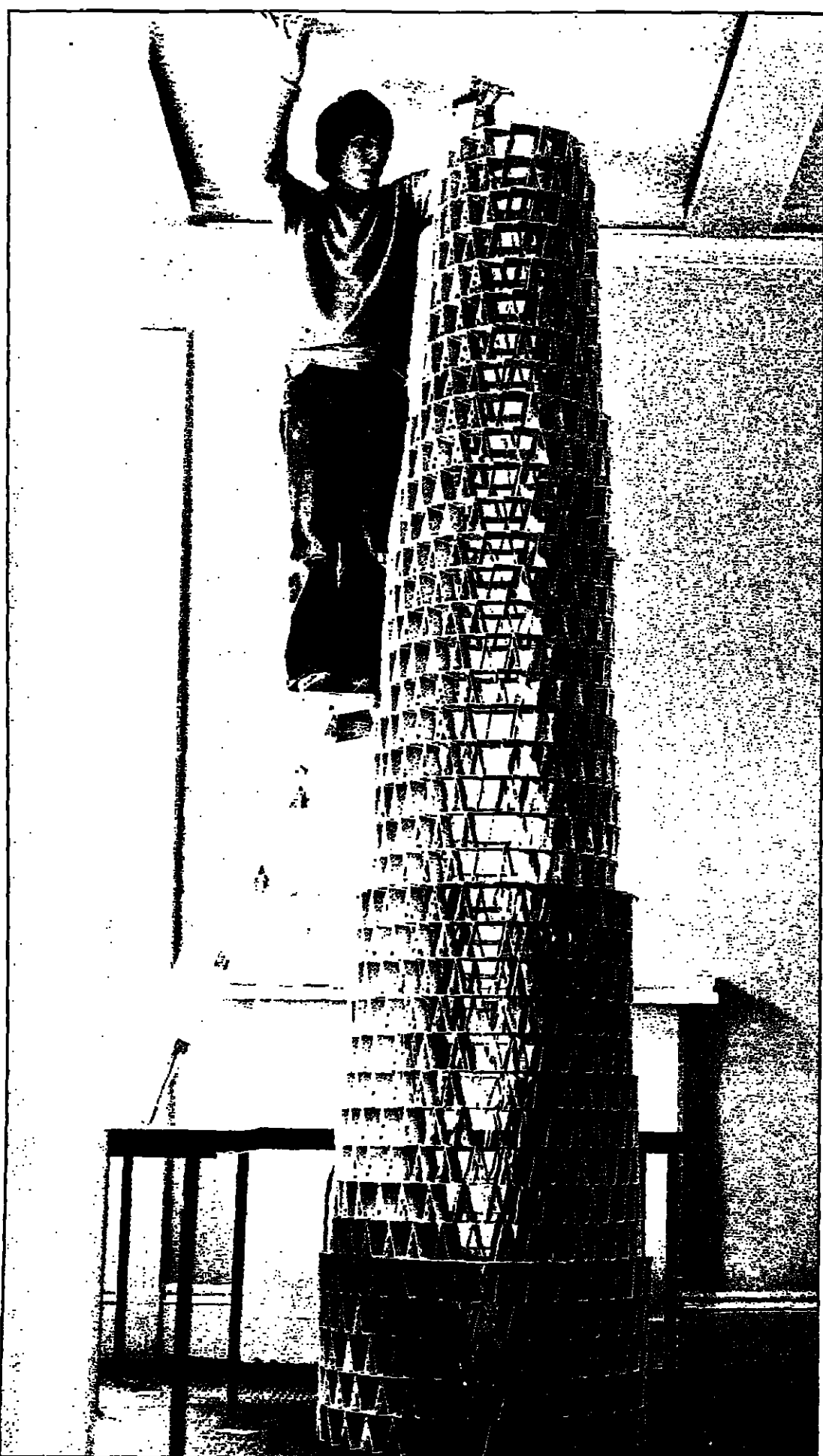
Investors clearly deserve greater transparency from investment trust groups and should look with caution on trusts with large numbers of cross-holdings.

Katharine Lewis is senior writer at Bloomberg Money magazine

SPLIT CAPITAL CROSS-HOLDINGS

Split capital trust investing in other split capital trusts	Discount (-)/Premium (+)	No. of split cap investment trust holdings in top 10	% of split cap holdings as total of fund	Holdings in split cap trusts investing in other split cap trusts as a % of fund trusts
BFS Income & Growth	+13.1	5	27%	Geared Income Ord shares 2.3% Dartmoor Ordinary shares 2.2% Geared Income Inc shares 1.6% Total 6.1%
Danae	-31.7	8	26.7%	Dartmoor Ordinary shares 2.3% Geared Income Ord shares 1.9% Total 4.2%
Dartmoor	+18	8	38.3%	Geared Income inc-shares 3.1% Total 3.1%
Geared Income	-13.6	8	49.8%	Dartmoor Ordinary shares 8.4% Total 8.4%
INVESCO City & Commercial	-15.4	2	6.4%	None
Jove	-47.5	4	16.2%	Dartmoor Ordinary shares 3.3% Total 3.3%

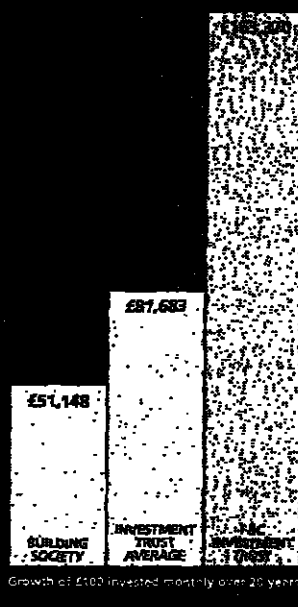
Source: TrustNet (www.trustnet.co.uk). As at 25/2/1999



Cross-holdings in the split capital sector have led to the feared 'house of cards' scenario, where the failure of one investment trust severely affects the others in the circle

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Changes could woo back small investors

BY NIC CICUTTI

ARE YOU a convert to the cause of investment trusts? If so, you might be forgiven for feeling slightly disgruntled in recent years, as the value of your investment has failed to match rises in other equity-linked pooled funds, such as unit trusts.

That isn't true of all investment trusts, of course. Some have continued to perform well and, in a handful of cases, have delivered sparkling returns. But it is true to say that in many cases, returns have been relatively poor.

In part, this has not been so much because of poor fund management skills, but a consequence of the structure of investment trusts themselves.

Unlike unit trusts, investment trusts operate as companies in their own right. You buy shares in an investment trust, which in turn buys shares in other companies. Demand for an investment trust share is what drives its price, not the value of the underlying asset.

In fact, it is common for the value of assets held by an investment trust to be greater than the price of shares in the trust itself. When this happens, this is known as a "discount to net asset value", or NAV.

This discount can narrow or increase, according to demand. Back in the early to mid-1990s, it narrowed so that the NAV discount stood at an average of 5 per cent. For investors who bought into investment trusts in the preceding few years, this was an unqualified success story.

Not only did they gain in terms of increases in the value of their trusts' underlying assets, the narrowing of discounts from up to 25 per cent a decade earlier gave them a substantial second bite at the cherry. The problem, unfortunately, was that this could not last.

A combination of factors, including the launch of too many



Investment trusts need new bands of 'committed' shareholders when institutional shareholders depart

poorly performing investment trusts, greater marketing skills by their unit trust counterparts, and more recent bouts of turbulence in world equity markets, saw discounts widen again to up to 15 per cent. In other words, irrespective of a trust manager's asset-picking skills, the trust's value fell to up to 10 per cent less on average than a comparable unit trust.

The problem is compounded by the fact that around 60 per cent of the £54bn investment trust sector is owned by institutional shareholders. They might have invested at a time when their own institution did not have the research expertise in a particular area. But this is no longer the case and - according to some estimates - anything between 25 and 35 per cent of them would like to

sell, creating between £13bn and £18bn of pent-up selling demand.

The trick, then, is for investment trusts to substitute departing institutional shareholders, who would sell up if discounts were likely to remain, with a new band of "committed" shareholders.

One mechanism is to maximise small investment opportunities, including regular savings schemes in investment trusts. In this regard, the Government's decision to encourage the provision of a new unit and investment trust-linked personal pension is judged by many experts to have the potential to mop up some of the shares which institutions might wish to dispose of.

But without small shareholders seeing that serious

steps are being taken to overcome the problem of discounts to net asset value, they are unlikely to step in to any great extent.

Therefore, one of the main methods which investment trusts hope will help the sector to overcome the discount problem is to engage in mass share buy-backs.

Investment trusts are allowed to buy back up to 14.99 per cent of shares at present held by shareholders, if they are given authority to do so. In the past year or so, more than 100 trusts, one-third of those that can do so, have sought, or are seeking, the authority of their shareholders to buy back their own equity. By reducing the number of shares in existence, the aim is to increase the price of those still in circulation. More than 20 have already acted on the basis of this general authorisation.

The attractiveness of this generalised buy-back has increased since the beginning of this year, when Advance Corporation Tax was abolished. The abolition will allow investment trusts to buy back their shares without incurring a 25 per cent liability to tax on the difference between the price paid and the price at which the shares were originally issued.

Ultimately, although buying back shares may work in some cases, overall performance of a trust is likely to remain key to reducing discounts. Replacing institutional shareholders with long-term investors requires a combination of reforms to the sector - including dealing with the problem of heavy expense ratios in very small and relatively unsuccessful trusts.

If the reforms work, small savers could well see their investment trusts becoming viable alternatives to unit trusts and their intended replacements, open-ended investment companies. The next 18 months will be a make-or-break time for the sector.

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UNIT TRUSTS

BEST PERFORMING OVER ONE YEAR
Initial £1,000 lump sum, offer-to-bid basis, net income

RANK	UNIT TRUST/SEC	CASH
1	Fidelity American	2,059.51
2	INVESTCO FT Japanese Smaller Cos	2,018.52
3	Johnson Fry New Japan	2,001.70
4	S&P Korea	1,985.51
5	Schroder Seoul	1,989.95

WORST PERFORMING

RANK	UNIT TRUST/SEC	CASH
1527	Edinburgh Latin American Cl A	648.09
1528	Scot Widows Emerging Markets	639.15
1529	Perpetual Latin American Gds	628.7
1530	Scot Widows Latin American	623.17
1531	S&P New Europe	606.73

BEST PERFORMING OVER THREE YEARS

RANK	UNIT TRUST/SEC	CASH
1	Fidelity American	3,084.67
2	TU European	2,345.54
3	Jupiter UK Growth Exempt	2,323.18
4	Old Mutual North America	2,132.55
5	Fidelity American Special Sits	2,117.87

WORST PERFORMING

RANK	UNIT TRUST/SEC	CASH
1340	Lazard Pacific Growth	462.92
1341	Scot Widows Gold & Int Resources	448.56
1342	M&G Asia	421.18
1343	Old Mutual Thailand	395.41
1344	S&P Gold & Exploration	217.66

BEST PERFORMING OVER FIVE YEARS

RANK	UNIT TRUST/SEC	CASH
1	Fidelity American	4,348.78
2	Abderrahman Technology	4,032.71
3	BA North American Growth	3,834.17
4	Fidelity American Special Sits	3,493.59
5	Edinburgh North American Cl B	3,333.93

WORST PERFORMING

RANK	UNIT TRUST/SEC	CASH
1124	Lincoln South East Asia	493.41
1125	S&P Korea	479.9
1126	Old Mutual Thailand	391.06
1127	Genetix US Bear	381.58
1128	S&P Gold & Exploration	347.48

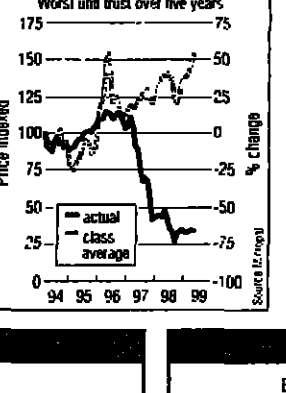
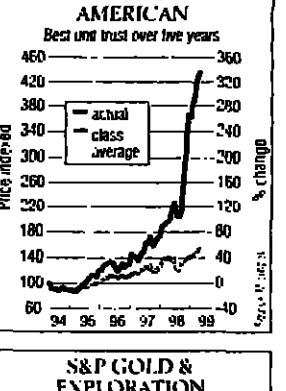
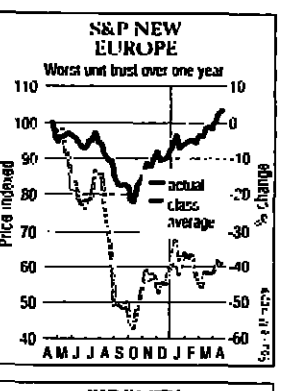
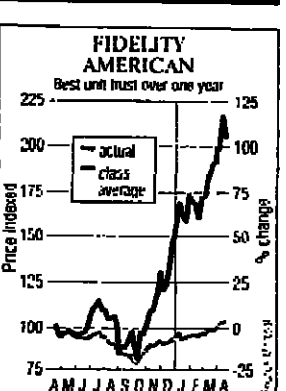
BEST PERFORMING OVER TEN YEARS

RANK	UNIT TRUST/SEC	CASH
1	Abderrahman Technology	10,887.33
2	BA North American Growth	9,028.55
3	Fidelity American	8,995.00
4	Edinburgh Global Technology	7,819.05
5	Edinburgh North American Cl B	7,418.72

WORST PERFORMING

RANK	UNIT TRUST/SEC	CASH
730	Henderson Japan	651.57
731	HSBC Japan Index	623.73
732	INVESTCO Japanese Gds	568.68
733	M&G Japan	514.11
734	Barclays Japan	430.27

Source: Standard & Poor's/Micropal



INVESTMENT TRUSTS

BEST PERFORMING OVER ONE YEAR
Initial £1,000 lump sum, mid-price to mid-price

RANK	INVESTMENT TRUST	CASH
1	INVESTCO Japan Discovery Wts	5,295.71
2	Baillie Gifford Asia Pacific Wts	2,732.68
3	Fidelity Japanese Values Wts	2,680.00
4	INVESTCO Japan Discovery	2,409.09
5	Martin Currie Japan Wts	2,388.89

WORST PERFORMING

RANK	INVESTMENT TRUST	CASH
497	First Russian Frontiers	241.69
498	Tea Plantations Wts	202.9
499	City of Oxford Wts	133.33
500	First Russian Frontiers Wts	118.81
501	Central European Gds Wts	12.36

BEST PERFORMING OVER THREE YEARS

RANK	INVESTMENT TRUST	CASH
1	Framlington Gds & Cap (2000)W	18,333.3
2	Jupiter Extra Inc Wts	9,625.00
3	Barometer Wts	5,500.00
4	Jew - Cap (2004)	5,234.78
5	Framlington Gds & Cap (1999)	4,980.05

WORST PERFORMING

RANK	INVESTMENT TRUST	CASH
429	For & Col Emerging Mkts Wts	162.92
430	Pacific Korea Wts	101.12
431	Edinburgh Japan Gds Wts	75
432	Abderrahman New Euro Gds Wts	37.23
433	Central European Gds Wts	8.39

BEST PERFORMING OVER FIVE YEARS

RANK	INVESTMENT TRUST	CASH
1	Framlington Gds & Cap (1999)	7,783.76
2	Jew - Cap (2004)	4,651.21
3	For & Col Enterprise	4,340.93
4	Jupiter Primadonna Growth	3,340.93
5	Jew Holdings - Cap (2003)	3,329.67

WORST PERFORMING

RANK	INVESTMENT TRUST	CASH
312	City of Oxford Wts	115.38
313	Perpetual Japanese Wts	112.58
314	Henderson Japanese Sm Co Wts	107.91
315	Edinburgh Japan Wts	34.09
316	Central European Gds Wts	6.67

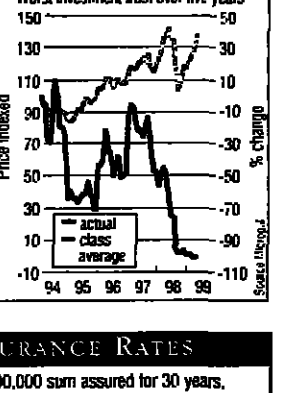
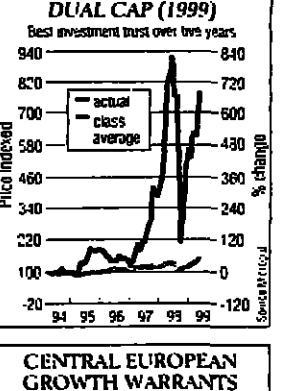
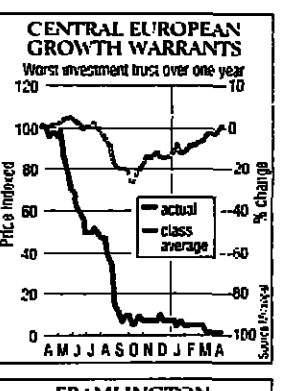
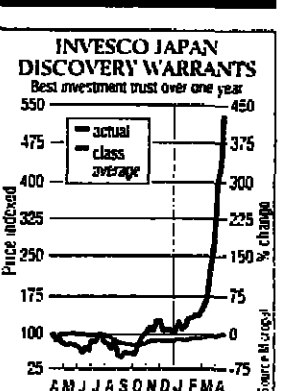
BEST PERFORMING OVER TEN YEARS

RANK	INVESTMENT TRUST	CASH
1	For & Col Enterprise	10,955.18
2	Framlington Gds & Cap (1999)	9,787.83
3	Jupiter Primadonna Growth	6,436.38
4	Candover	6,386.94
5	Edinburgh US Tracker	5,625.49

WORST PERFORMING

RANK	INVESTMENT TRUST	CASH
110	Baillie Gifford Asia Pacific	1,013.59
111	For & Col Emerging Markets	918.5
112	Trust of Property Shares	834.72
113	Korea-Europe Fund	394.63
114	INVESTCO Enterprise	334.72

Source: Standard & Poor's/Micropal



FAR EAST EXCLUDING JAPAN FUNDS

BEST PERFORMING UNIT TRUSTS/OEICs
Initial £1,000 lump sum, offer to bid basis

RANK	UNIT TRUST/OEIC	ONE YEAR CASH	FIVE YEARS CASH	RANK
1	Prudential Pacific Markets	1,245.73	Fidelity Asia Pacific	1,300.02
2	Fidelity Int. Fds S.E. Asia	1,241.27	HSBC Hong Kong Growth	1,306.24
3	Scot Amicable Asia Pacific	1,233.41	Fidelity South East Asia	1,189.55
4	Old Mutual Thailand	1,187.80	Credit Suisse Orient	1,020.82
5	Gartmore P&F Pacific	1,177.09	Henry Coombs Ltd Eastern Enter	1,012.82

Worst Performing Unit Trusts		Worst Performing Unit Trusts		Worst Performing Unit Trusts	
77	Drescher RCM Little Dragons	871.82	Scot Widows South East Asia	564.34	57
78	INVESTCO FT Hong Kong & China	846.44	Mercury Pacific	561.18	58
79	Goldman Sachs Asia Smaller Cos	793.14	S&P South East Asia Growth	553.81	59
80	Edinburgh Asian Smaller Cos Cl B	791.62	Lincoln South East Asia	493.41	60
81	Edinburgh Asian Smaller Cos Cl A	787.85	Old Mutual Thailand	391.06	61

BEST PERFORMING INVESTMENT TRUSTS
Initial £1,000 lump sum, mid-price to mid-price

RANK	INVESTMENT TRUST	ONE YEAR CASH	FIVE YEARS CASH	RANK
1	Schroder Korea Fund	2,015.61	Taiwan Investment	1,098.77
2	INVESTCO Korea	1,838.73	New Zealand	792.76
3	Australian Opportunities	1,292.43	Pacific Horizon	710.12
4	Pacific Assets	1,268.31	Henderson TR Pacific	678.10
5	Schroder Asia Pacific Fund	1,236.97	Abderrahman New Euro	665.09

Pacific Assets	1,268.21	Abderrahman TR Pacific	678.10	4
Schroder Asia Pacific Fund	1,236.97	Abderrahman New Down	605.09	5

WORST PERFORMING INVESTMENT TRUSTS					
9	Scottish Oriental Smaller Cos	855.15	Gartmore Emerging Pacific	415.25	11
0	Genetix Asia Smaller Cos	814.44	Genetix Asia Smaller Cos	357.27	12
1	Edinburgh Java	814.29	Scot Selective Growth	285.91	13
2	Henderson Smaller Asian Cos	803.52	Edinburgh New Tiger	274.06	14
3	Edinburgh New Tiger	835.21	Abderrahman New Euro	157.68	15

Source: Standard & Poor's/Micropal

PERMANENT INTEREST-BEARING SHARES

FIRM	COUPON (gross, %)	MINIMUM (£)	PRICE (pence)	YIELD (gross, %)
Barclays	8 1/2	1,000	148	6.33
Barclays	11 1/2	10,000	188	6.18
Barclays	13	10,000	210	6.10
Barclays	13	1,000	202	6.42
Barclays	12 1/2	1,000	191	6.32
Barclays	13 1/2	1,000	208	6.43
Barclays	10 1/2	1,000	175	6.14
Barclays	12 1/2	1,000	207	6.10
Barclays	12 1/2	1,000	214	6.02

PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS

FIRM	COUPON (gross, %)	MINIMUM (£)	PRICE (pence)	YIELD (gross, %)
Barclays and Gloucester	11 1/2	50,000	184.5	6.37
First Active	11 1/2	10,000	181.2	6.28
Barclays	8 1/2	50,000	133	6.58
Barclays	12	50,000	172.4	6.86
Barclays	13 1/2	50,000	211	6.46
Barclays	13 1/2	1,000	196	6.82
Barclays	12 1/2	1,000	199	6.34

Source: Greenwich NatWest

BEST SAVINGS RATES

INSTANT ACCESS BRANCH ACCOUNTS

TELEPHONE	ACCOUNT	NOTICE	DEPOSIT	%	INT
0845 7140410	Tesco	Instant	£1	4.50%	4.50%
0800 222200	Woolwich	Instant	£1	4.50%	4.50%
0845 6006061	Yorkshire BS	Instant	£1	4.50%	4.50%
01202 843550	Teacher's BS	Instant	£500	4.30%	4.35%

POSTAL/TELEPHONE ACCOUNTS - NO NOTICE

TELEPHONE	ACCOUNT	NOTICE	DEPOSIT	%	INT
0845 6006062	Scot Widows	Instant	£1	6.00%	6.00%
0845 6010120	Barclays	Instant	£1	5.75%	5.75%
0845 6006061	Yorkshire BS	Instant	£1	5.80%	5.80%
01483 744500	Sum Bank	Instant	£500	5.60%	5.60%

NOTICE ACCOUNTS AND BONDS

TELEPHONE	ACCOUNT	NOTICE	DEPOSIT	%	INT
0845 6006061	Scot Widows	30 Day	£100	5.80%	5.80%
01723 500616	Scot Widows	40 Day Access	£100	5.95%	5.95%
0800 815 0111	Northumbria	Instant	£500	6.20%	6.20%
0845 845 0829	Scot Widows	90 Day Notice	£100	5.90%	5.90%

CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

TELEPHONE	ACCOUNT	NOTICE	DEPOSIT	%	INT
01438 744505	Sum Bank	Instant	£1,000	4.25%	4.25%
0181 4472040	Alm Bank	Instant	£5,000	5.25%	5.25%
0800 0728738	Lincoln & Hallbank	Instant	£5,000	5.00%	5.00%
0171 5874131	Investor Bank	Instant	£5,000	4.75%	4.65%

FIXED RATE BONDS

TELEPHONE	ACCOUNT	NOTICE	DEPOSIT	%	INT
01422 333333	Halifax	Instant	£2,000	5.75%	5.83%
0845 6006061	Yorkshire BS	Instant	£1,000	5.75%	5.83%
0800 222200	Woolwich	Instant	£1,000	5.75%	5.83%
0800 373191	Fitzwill	Instant	£1,000	5.75%	5.83%

MINI CASH ISAS

TELEPHONE	ACCOUNT	NOTICE	DEPOSIT	%	INT
0800 302010	Halifax	Instant	£1	6.50%	6.50%
0845 6006061	Yorkshire BS	Instant	£1	6.25%	6.25%
0800 100801	Alm Bank	Instant	£3,000	6.50%	6.50%
0800 883322	Northumbria	Instant	£3,000	6.75%	6.75%

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TELEPHONE	ACCOUNT	NOTICE	DEPOSIT	%	INT
0800 222200	Woolwich	Instant	£1	6.00%	6.00%
0800 100801	Alm Bank	Instant	£1,000	6.25%	6.25%
01422 333333	Halifax	Instant	£3,000	6.50%	6.50%
0845 7855522	Conveyance BS	Instant	£500	6.50%	6.50%

OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS (GROSS)

TELEPHONE	ACCOUNT	NOTICE	DEPOSIT	%	INT
01481 822747	Portugal Channel Is	Instant	£5,000	5.50%	5.50%
01624 673373	Irish Nat'l (Gross)	Instant	None	5.00%	6.00%
01481 714600	Irish Nat'l (Gross)	Instant	None	6.00%	6.00%
01624 673373	Irish Nat'l (Gross)	Instant	None	6.00%	6.00%

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS (NET)

TELEPHONE	ACCOUNT	NOTICE	DEPOSIT	%	INT
0181 3803388	SE First Assurance	1 Year	£10,000	4.20%	4.20%
0800 838020	Countrywide Assured	2 Year	£10,000	4.20%	4.20%
0800 838020	Countrywide Assured	3 Year	£10,000	4.10%	4.10%
0800 838020	Countrywide Assured	4 Year	£10,000	4.25%	4.25%

NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (GROSS)

TELEPHONE	ACCOUNT	NOTICE	DEPOSIT	%	INT
0800 302010	Halifax	Instant	£200	3.65%	3.65%
0800 100801	Alm Bank	Instant	£500	3.80%	3.80%
01422 333333	Halifax	Instant	£1,000	4.00%	4.00%
0845 7855522	Conveyance BS	Instant	£500	4.45%	4.45%

INCOME BONDS

TELEPHONE	ACCOUNT	NOTICE	DEPOSIT	%	INT
0800 302010	Halifax	Instant	£500	4.85%	4.85%
0800 100801	Alm Bank	Instant	£500	4.85%	4.85%
01422 333333	Halifax	Instant	£500	4.85%	4.85%
0845 7855522	Conveyance BS	Instant	£500	4.85%	4.85%

CASH ISA

TELEPHONE	ACCOUNT	NOTICE	DEPOSIT	%	INT
0191 2442466	Lincoln & Hallbank	Instant	£100	5.25%	5.25%
0191 2442466	Lincoln & Hallbank	Instant	£100	5.25%	5.25%
0845 6006061	Yorkshire BS	Instant	£100	5.25%	5.25%

TELEPHONE	ACCOUNT	NOTICE	DEPOSIT	%	INT
0191 2442466	Lincoln & Hallbank	Instant	£100	4.85%	4.85%
01					

ER = Annual Equivalent Rate. B = Operated by post and telephone. F = Fixed rate (all other rates are variable). N = Net rate. O/M = Interest paid on maturity. P = Operated by post. T = Operated by telephone.

Take your pick: Darren, Trevor or Mikey

FUNNY HOW foreign exchange traders are always the same wherever you go. The first time I wandered down to the other end of the trading room here, I thought I'd accidentally stepped through a gap in the space-time continuum and found myself back in the old gaff.

The theory at our end of the floor is that they're all produced in the same factory. Laura's guess is that there's a company called something like "Romford Robotics" tucked away on a small light-industrial estate well out of sight, although Jaap thinks he may have spotted it when he tried to find the route to Cambridge and got lost on the way.

"Do you suppose they have a product catalogue?" he says, and we reply that we suppose they do and wouldn't it make interesting reading. Then Jaap and Findlay have to go off to price some currency deal, and Laura and I are left to our own devices.

There's not much happening at the moment - everyone's waiting to see if rates can go any lower and trying not to be the first to crack - so we've plenty of time to let our minds wander. And what they come up with is this - the Romford Robotics catalogue with its four most popular lines.

AFX101: Programmed to an-

swer to the names Daryl, Darren or Dwight. Lives in a flat in a new riverside housing development in the Thames Estuary. Average height with sandy hair and squishy, unremarkable facial characteristics. Comes with grey Hugo Boss suit (jacket too large, trousers too short), white shirt with sweat stains under arms, grey shoes and white socks. Bottle-blond girlfriend is named after Australian soap-opera star and works in the back office of another department. This is our best-selling line, why not order two?

AFX102: "Trevor" has lank black hair and bloodshot eyes. Lives with long-suffering wife to the



THE TRADER

The theory is that all foreign exchange traders are produced in the same factory

north-east of the City, and travels into work by train. Usually travels back home by mini-cab after late-night drinking session. Clothing undistinguished: chain-store suit, clean but ill-fitting because of refusal to accept existence of beer belly. Extra-large memory banks programmed with every known sick joke, racist or sexist slur, or insult to foreigners. Comes with large collection of heavy-duty pornography to put in desk drawer and produce whenever female colleague approaches.

AFX103: "Mikey" is an ideal choice for senior positions. Wears expensive designer suits with

extra-wide shoulder pads, but junior models can relate easily to him as he has retained an east London accent. Can be programmed to use your choice of expletives every five words, or more frequently if angry. Likes champagne, but can't pronounce "Moët" properly. Coke habit helps to keep weight down. Lives in house in country once owned by pop star/footballer with gold-plated everything, Jacuzzi and indoor pool. Wife is former glamour model with surgically enhanced breasts, who spends most of day drinking and lying around the pool.

AFX104: Wears figure-hugging jackets and tight micro-minis. Is

17-year-old female, and as well as responding to the name "Trace" also answers to "dopey tart", "slapper", "Doris" and "dozy cow" without punching anyone. Lives at home with her mum and dad, who are very proud of her career. Badly affected by alcohol, although tries to keep up with the boys on end up getting off with someone on the fire escape. Good short-term proposition, as after two years of this she usually comes to her senses and leaves. The price takes account of this probability.

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Relating is the key to a happy business

MODERN COMPANY law still rests on the Victorian view of the duties of the company director and the need to protect scarce physical and financial capital. The Government's Company Law Review Steering Group has published a consultation paper which asks how to protect and empower today's scarce human, social and intellectual resources.

The steering group has identified the principles which many leading UK companies already practise - a recognition of their corporate responsibility to the society in which they operate. KPMG and The Relationships Foundation believe that the key to business success in the new millennium will be the successful management of stakeholder relationships. But if companies are to reach a higher level of success and consistency in this area, they will need more than legislation or corporate governance regulations. They must also re-define the way

BY SHONAIJ JEMMETT-PAGE AND MICHAEL SCHULTER

in which they manage relationships at both a strategic and operational level, in particular managing expectations.

We are developing a "relational audit" approach to this area. In one particular case, we used our methodology to look at differences in expectations between two organisations which had resulted in a "malfunctioning" of the relationship. By being able to identify, manage and eventually "re-negotiate" that key relationship, both parties were able to increase co-operation and set it back on track.

Five principles can be applied to assess the quality and likely long-term success of any relationship between organisations or individuals. ■ Commonality: are there common goals and objectives, and a sense of

shared culture which acts as a basis for resolving differences of opinion? Are these differences seen as negative or as enriching the relationship in a framework of common goals?

■ Parity: what is the balance of power in a relationship and how is it managed and used? Do the parties have different types of power, such as financial, political, and veto rights? What level of participation and involvement do the parties have in decision-making and how does this affect individual morale? Are the deliverable benefits for both parties clearly defined and perceived as fair?

■ Multiplexity: what is the "breadth" of the relationship? Is there a shared knowledge of the extent of the range of skills and experience that individuals or organisations can contribute? Is there sufficient knowledge of a department, an organisation, a role or a person, so as to develop and build the effectiveness of joint working?

■ Continuity: is there sufficient contact between key parties to the relationship, and how are any changes, such as career progression and new personnel, managed without undermining the quality of existing relationships?

■ Directness: how do the parties communicate and what is the style and level of skill involved in their communications? Is the amount and quality of information exchanged sufficient to enable a better understanding of the key issues?

Our approach is based on the belief that all companies with ambitions of growth and success want to manage their key business relationships for the maximum and mutual benefit of all involved. If businesses focus on relationships it will go some way towards resolving conflicts.

Shonaij Jemmett-Page is a partner at KPMG; Michael Schultzer is at the Relationships Foundation



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ME AND MY PARTNER

KAREN HADDON AND HAROLD BERLINSKI

Karen Haddon started out as a singer-actress, then had a pop hit with her sister. At 21, she joined her father, Harold Berlinski, in his new firm, Le Maitre, now the UK's largest firework business, turning over more than £5m a year



Karen Haddon and her father Harold Berlinski: 'We are both very aggressive. We see what we want and we go for it... and we have lots of arguments in the board room, if we both feel we are right'

Paul Ross

KAREN HADDON: I was at stage school until the age of 15, then in a TV series for two years. After that I made a record with my sister, Maxine. When she got married, I went to work for my father, who had a furniture company and a petrol station, and had just set up with somebody who'd invented the first safe pyro-flash system.

I was intrigued to watch my father and learnt a lot very quickly, listening to him doing deals and observing his business acumen. I found it fascinating and tried to emulate him. I began to feel very comfortable in that environment and to take more and more on. Three years later, I became the finance director, then a full partner and bought shares in the company. I wanted to concentrate on the displays and make them bigger: there were lots of areas we could expand into, such as the corporate market and millennium displays. I don't think I could have done a nine-to-five job, but I liked the fact that I knew what I was doing every day. That's why I stayed. My father knew that Maxine and I always wanted to become singers and dancers - we never thought of anything else - but he always made jokes about who was going to take over the family business. I think he was very pleased when I came in, because his natural flair for business has rubbed off on me: I lived at home until I got married, at 28, and I have most of his traits.

We are both very aggressive. We see what we want and we go for it, which probably isn't very attractive in a woman. We are quite ruthless. I can be very argumentative and very stubborn: in that, we are incredibly similar and we have lots of arguments in the board room, if we both feel we are right. But often we are able to change each other's minds. I think that's one of the reasons he feels comfortable with me in business.

One of our biggest shows in the 1980s was the G7 summit at Buckingham Palace, with President Bush and Margaret Thatcher. That was a turning point in terms of scale: we were getting known as one of the few companies which could do the really big displays. It was exciting, similar to the adrenalin I got when I went on stage.

Our industry is very informal. Having been in show business, dealing with rock and roll people is easier for me. But when you have Michael Jackson performing and you're setting off fireworks a few feet away, that's nerve-racking. But it's rewarding when you have done a brilliant show and everybody applauds. You can be very creative: you have to keep finding new boundaries which you can make safe, but spectacular.

Now, stars can't just go on stage and sing. People are expecting an entire show and special effects. You get some hands who want to blow up cars on stage, and you have to give them everything they want - safely. You can never leave anything to chance. We would pull the show if there was any ele-

ment of danger. My father and I communicate an awful lot and I usually tell him what I am doing, what meetings I've had. We discuss the strategy we are going to use to get a job. My father is logical and straightforward, and I find that helpful. It's good business sense. We also work separately: he has responsibility for the whole company, as chairman, and I run the firework division. I think I have a particular empathy with the people who work for us, and I'll put their case to my father.

Although I have the most enormous respect for him and listen to his advice, I find it difficult to take direction and if I believe I am right, I will do it. I get a lot of satisfaction when I do a big deal, particularly if I've put together the tender and made the presentation. If my father disagrees with something, I go all out to prove it will work. You could call it high-spiritedness, but I can be a bit dogmatic.

In a partnership like this, you do lose something as father and daughter. He thinks I am very tenacious, and I have certainly gained his admiration, but I don't think it's a natural progression for a child to challenge the father in a board room. My father was always in charge and made the decisions. Now, I

'My father is logical and straightforward and I find that helpful. It's also good business sense. I have respect for him'

can't sit on his lap and put my arms round him. I miss that.

With the millennium, business is going to be manic for the next year. My father is more laid back now. He'll come in later in the mornings, or offer to pick up my daughter from school. I've seen a change in him - he's beginning to relax, and he knows what's going on in each area of the business. He's 74, but I don't think he would ever retire. He feels confident with the qualities I have, because they are what made him successful.

HAROLD BERLINSKI: Karen was very involved in the entertainment business. She had a nice voice, although she abhorred acting. She and Maxine used to do the clubs, Cleethorpes Pier and so forth. I said: "That's what you've got to do; that's your apprenticeship and that's where you learn." I made it as easy as I could for them, but if you could work in those clubs, you could work anywhere. Karen was nervous, but she was very determined.

I started working for myself at 16 or 17, after being a welder. I used to buy and sell in south London, from auction sales. Then I went into pianos, and started a little shop in Clapham. We sold gowns and second-hand clothes, but my sisters used to give the gear away. Then we turned it into an eat and pie shop. The piano game got very bad, so I started

making furniture, and ended up with two factories.

I had a bit of space and my son-in-law brought me a clever kid, who was a designer and used to make dry ice machines. He worked out a system for a pyro-flash with cartridges. You've seen a genie pop out in a pantomime with a flash - it's done with powder in a bowl, set off with a hot wire - but this kid had a cartridge plugged into a box which was a long way away. It's a much safer system. That's how we started. We had another designer who had a lot of contacts, and who was a friend of one of the Queen's equestrians, so we used to get all the displays.

Karen came into the office one day and wanted a job. She probably wasn't that serious about it, but I saw she had potential, and she's turned into an extremely good businesswoman. It was one step at a time: she started with secretarial work. She's very thorough and methodical, self-sufficient and dedicated. She's also good with people. I'm not good with the staff, too impatient. I have been in business for a long time, but I always had somebody looking after staff.

When I started the firework business, I wasn't all that far-seeing and we had one or two sticky patches. I am protective towards this because it's a family business, even more than if it was my own. I used to go out and get the business, but now I have very little to do with that. Karen is on that side, and my son-in-law does the sales. I have every confidence in them.

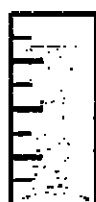
Our strength has been in research and development: for example, we had the best-designed smoke machine. If we found a hole in the market, we filled it. We also have extremely good distributors, and a sister company in Canada, so we had good expansion. In the early days, I would do whatever it took: you need dedication and determination to make it happen. I was ruthless, and in the furniture side, buying was my strong point. We used to serve the big boys then, MFI and Littlewoods.

Karen and I can argue a great deal, and we have occasional differences of opinion, but they don't get that bad. One of us changes our mind. Our relationship has always been good, and I admire her ability and love her dearly. Maybe when she started, Karen did feel she had to prove something - and she undoubtedly has done. She's had things to learn but she's learnt them. I haven't had any doubts she can do it.

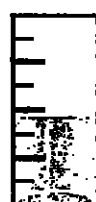
I have no yen to leave the business completely, but I can take it easy now. Things can go wrong and I like to be around to see they don't, because I still feel protective of it. It's something to do. But at some stage when everything is flowing, maybe I will go. I hope Karen still considers my judgement is good - living as long as I have done, I should have better judgement. She could talk to me about anything. These days, being a woman in business isn't a difficulty. There are not many chauvinist pigs around.

INTERVIEWS BY
RACHELLE THACKRAY

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WEDNESDAY REVIEW

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Out boating with dad



In digs at Oxford



On hols with brother Miles



School trip from Hendon County

A life less ordinary

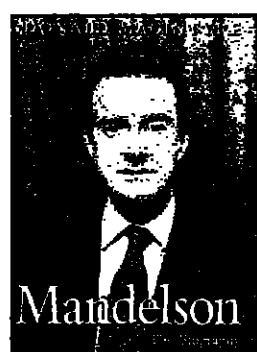
Even as a child, according to his older brother Miles, Peter Mandelson was a "great stylist". He was also "the opposite of a shrinking violet ... He never seemed to be fazed by anything and always seemed to predominate in a situation."

It was like a "miniature adult," comfortable in the company of adults. At the age of 13 he was in the Hampstead Garden Suburb Dramatic Society production of Terence Rattigan's *The Winslow Boy* as the eponymous hero, a caste accused of stealing money. Despite having nothing similar before, he showed no sign of stage fright. *The Hendon Times* was enthusiastic: "Considering his age ... Peter Mandelson gave an excellent performance ... Reduced to tears after being expelled, he switched convincingly into a sort of a melancholic attitude as his case drags on." "Whatever anxieties he may have had, according to Miles, there were overcome by 'the lure of the limelight!'"

Family recollections also of a humorous, self-confident and somewhat mischievous little boy. If Pater was an extrovert then Miles, he could also be "infernal nuisance", particularly as a family stereotype of the annoying younger brother. Walking home with Miles one afternoon shortly after he started at Hendon County grammar school, he saw some girls from Henrietta Barnett on the other side of the road. To Miles's horror, Pater shouted across to the girls, "What do you think of my brother?" Pater thought it a great joke; to the adolescent Miles it was mortifying enough for him to complain vigorously to his mother about it. On a family holiday to Spain, Miles had only to pass the time of day with a "Spanish lass" for Pater to dance round him, chanting, "Milo's in love, Milo's in love."

But although Miles was shyer and less gregarious than his younger brother, he was also able to get the measure of him. On one occasion Miles, in a flight of tempest inspiration, conferred a new alias on his brother: "Osmond Smish, the Italian mind-your-own-businessman." It conveyed "the kind of character you could imagine my brother becoming" explained Miles: "someone with probably an over-inflated sense of his own importance but also somebody who is a wheeler and a dealer or a fixer." The name was almost certainly suggested by one of Kenneth Horne's radio comedy shows. Peter, by accounts, revelled in his new celebrity as Smish - the name by which he is still known to his family and to some of his closest friends outside politics.

Number 12 Bigwood Road was a lively, comfortable and entirely Labour household to grow up in. The family went on holidays abroad; Tony Mandelson chose his cars with care; the family owned a Sunbeam Talbot Convertible. Tony Mandelson's gregariousness and showmanship were inherited by his younger son. Photographs reveal Tony, the advertising director at the *Jewish Chronicle*, as exceptionally handsome.



Peter has since said that in other ways he is "so like my father I can feel it". But he was probably closer to his mother. By contrast the shy and less extrovert Miles Mandelson was more like his mother but correspondingly closer to Tony Mandelson. Miles always considered Peter to be Mary Mandelson's "favourite son. Still is. I don't say this out of any feelings of jealousy. She's very even handed about these things, and I think she would hate to think she had a favourite. But they are more in tune with one another at an emotional level, as well as an intellectual level." He also tended to get this way: when Miles Mandelson left home, "the study" at Bigwood Road became "Peter's study", where he would prepare for his A-levels to the sound of Bach and Telemann records put on the gramophone by Mary Mandelson.

The young Mandelson's interest in politics, his mother Mary judged, began at the age of "about five". When his father, Herbert Morrison, on one of his rare visits to Bigwood Road, departed without waiting for Peter to get back from school, he burst into tears—as much, perhaps, because he was a politician as because he was his grandfather.

Mandelson appears to have been something of an instant success at Hendon County grammar school. By the end of the fourth year the formidable headmaster, Myrland Potts, was cautiously marting him out for higher things: "Can he gain the really high grades which would warrant an application to Oxford or Cambridge?" he asked. Peter was not exactly sporty, though at 14 he was in the school rugby team and, the following year, he was in the athletics team as a "very efficient" manager. One fourth-form report on the boy who would later become something of a fitness fanatic, working out and swimming regularly, put it laconically: "Lazy, but improves with the weather."

Steve Howell and Peter Mandelson grew up together politically. Howell, who also attended Henderson County, had had little to do with Mandelson until they found themselves in the same set for several O-level subjects. He was struck at the time by two aspects of Mandelson's standing in the school. One was that "He was much more mature than other people in the year. I remember he used to spend

‘Eventually,’ reported his headmaster, ‘he will wish to undertake some great task on behalf of humanity.’ In this extract from *Mandelson: The Biography*, Donald Macintyre leafs through the family album and finds a ‘miniature adult’ destined for politics from infancy, a mischievous Young Socialist and a mysterious Young Communist

time chatting with the teachers on almost equal terms, which most people in the year wouldn't do."

Howell, who was to socialise regularly in Mandelson's company over the next four years, also remembers another Mandelson trait. "Peter's very funny when he's talking about other people. He likes a good gossip. He likes characterising other people," Mandelson apparently shunned big teenage parties, preferring to meet people "in smaller circles where he could be the kind of focus of the thing and entertain everyone... and have a laugh". According to Howell, Mandelson was already "an incredible anorak" about the House of Commons, inviting friends, especially on long car journeys, to test him with the names of parliamentary constituencies so that he could answer with the name of the sitting MP: "He'd be laughing at himself while he was doing this, but actually he could name every single constituency MP! But he was also very keen on party politics. He blossomed into activism until he got out of the car in 1969, when they were talking to Howell's grandmother, Winnie, a local Labour stalwart, who suggested the boys re-form the then dormant branch of Young Socialists in the constituency. Which they enthusiastically set about doing.

The stencilled YS magazine regularly carried Mandelson editorially. One issue, in March 1970, was already sternly warning against participation for the wrong reasons. The branch was not a "Friday night little social club"; it was not enough for members to turn up "because they had nothing better to do or because they are particularly interested in Atomic Energy or because they wouldn't mind having a look at Danny Abner or Will Howe [two recent guest speakers]." YS members urgently needed to examine big questions like: "Are we getting the right people along to our branch meetings? Are we really doing anything worthwhile at all?"

At the end of his first term in the sixth form EW Maynard Potts MA MSC. Hon. FRIBA, as he imposingly styled himself, commented: "Eventually he will wish to undertake some great task on behalf of humanity." The report was written a matter of weeks before Mandelson joined the Young Communist League.

In joining the YCL, Mandelson may have been

influenced by his close friendship with Howell. At different times Maynard Potts apparently accused each of leading the other astray. In interviews Mandelson has tended to play down his YCL membership – for example, telling the *Independent on Sunday* in 1996: “I went to the meetings. I really can’t remember what led me to the YCL. It was short lived. I felt no identification. I spent far more time setting up a tremendous youth club at the Winchester Arms at Swiss Cottage, tearing it apart with my bare hands, then rebuilding it to make it structurally sound.”

This is not the whole story. He was active in the YCL from February 1971 to September 1972, regularly selling the *Morning Star* and *Challenge*, the YCL newspaper, and attending a YCL Congress in Scarborough as a steward.

What did Mandelson get from his time as a Young Communist?

Looking back, his other close Hendon County friend and comrade Keren Abse, who is now a teacher, reflected that Mandelson was as discontented a communist

combination as she was but that it may nevertheless have subconsciously influenced his later political style:

primary thing
about the YCL is
that it is incred-
ibly disciplined,
with its commit-
tee structure ...
you learn how to
manipulate and be
Machiavellian ... I
used to do a lot of
union negotiations
and I always used to
think 'God almighty,
people are bloody


naive in this room.' So I think that discipline ... was also attractive."

Mandelson was energetic in arranging his post-school year. Having been accepted at St Catherine's College, Oxford, to do Philosophy, Politics and Economics, he wrote to the anti-apartheid priest Trevor Huddleston, then Bishop of Stepney, whom he had heard on the radio talking about Tanzania. His mother suggested he go to see 'how [Julius] Nyerere is doing' - Huddleston arranged for him to work on a rural diocesan mission in Tanzania - then regarded as a model of uncorrupt African socialism. What Mandelson did not discover until nearly a year later, when rifling through his own file while working briefly in the diocesan office in Mwanza, was that Huddleston had secretly promised his fellow bishop that he would pay Peter's board and lodging for the year out of his own pocket.

I'm happy when I think of all the things around me that I can discuss the reported letter to Steve Howell days after his arrival. I just wish there was someone other than neoconic, sports-fanatical, Canadian engineers and apologetic VSO aeromechanics to share it all with. I'm dying for a good bloody argument, a laugh and a glass of whisky. And I wish they wouldn't keep saying 'grace' before they eat. All this religion is positively unhealthy. -

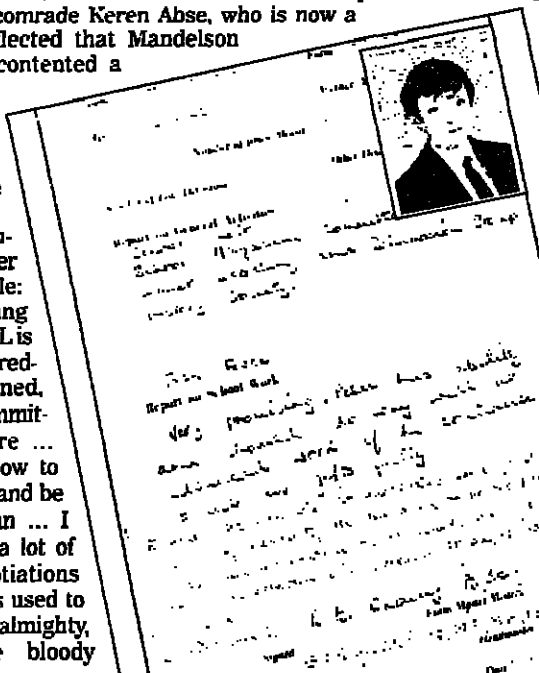
Mandelson's long, fluent letters to family and friends mixed sharp, detailed and sometimes funny observation with - at times dauntingly comprehensive - meditations on the theory and practice of Novercane socialism.

They also gave a rather surprising picture of an introspective young man trying earnestly to work through the big questions in politics – and even in religion. The work at Buhemba planting gum trees was not too hard; he



During the Haris' 'Jav-ish' Christmas dinner, I sat next to Mr Method. Merry's appropriately named Swahili teacher, who having been told my full name persistently rather disconcertingly addressed me as 'Mandelson'. Mr Method's English was quite funny on occasions. On being

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Plea for peace

Sir: As long-time activists for a democratic and anti-nationalist Serbia, who have chosen to remain in Yugoslavia during this moment of crisis and who want to see our country reintegrated into the community of nations, we strongly condemn the Nato bombings, which have hugely exacerbated violence in Kosovo, the ethnic cleansing of the Albanian population by any Yugoslav forces and the Kosovo Liberation Army's violence against the Serbs, moderate Albanians and others.

The humanitarian catastrophe in Kosovo - death, grief and extreme suffering for hundreds of thousands of Albanians, Serbs and others - has to be ended now. All refugees from Yugoslavia must immediately and unconditionally be allowed to return to their homes, their security and human rights guaranteed, and aid for reconstruction provided.

Perpetrators of crimes against humanity, whoever they are, must be brought to justice.

The fighting between Serbian forces and KLA has to be stopped immediately in order to start a new round of negotiations. All sides must put aside their maximalist demands. There are (as in other numerous similar conflicts such as Northern Ireland) no quick and easy solutions. We all must be prepared for a long and painstaking process of negotiation and normalisation.

The bombing of Yugoslavia by Nato causes destruction and growing numbers of civilian victims (at least several hundred, maybe a thousand, by now). The final outcome will be the destruction of the economic and cultural foundations of Yugoslav society. If continued this conflict can escalate beyond Balkan borders and, if turned into land military operations, thousands of Nato and Yugoslav soldiers, as well as Albanian and Serbian civilians, will die in a futile war, as in Vietnam.

The democratic forces in Serbia have been weakened and the democratic reformist government of Montenegro threatened by Nato's attacks and by the regime's subsequent proclamation of the state of war, and now find themselves between Nato's hammer and the regime's anvil.

We appeal to all: President Milosevic, the representatives of the Kosovo Albanians, Nato, EU and US leaders to stop all military activities immediately and engage in the search for a political solution.

STOJAN CEROVIC
Columnist, "Preme"
JOVAN CIRILOV
Belgrade International Theatre Festival
SONJA LICHT
President, Fund for an Open Society Executive Board
VERAN MATIC
Editor in Chief, Belgrade Radio B92
VIDA OGJENOVIC
Theatre director, playwright
IVAN VEJVODA
Executive Director, Fund for an Open Society

and 21 others
Belgrade

Sir: Bruce Young (letter, 20 April) informs us that 200,000 Serbs left their homes and belongings in the Krajina region of Croatia in August 1995 merely because their Serb leaders told them to.

In fact, prosecutors at the Hague War Crimes Tribunal have named the names of three Croatian generals who are wanted for the crime of raining shells on the civilian inhabitants of Knin, the main city in Krajina, in August 1995. Such atrocities, and others recorded by human rights agencies, precipitated the Serb flight.

Ethnic cleansing is ethnic cleansing no matter who the perpetrators. Or has the doublethink which Robert Fisk has so outstandingly exposed in *The Independent* gone so far that any

crime can be excused in order to justify the madness of Nato's bombing campaign?

KEVIN OVENDEN
London N16
Sir: Robert Fisk has missed only one point - Kosovo was part of the dominions of King Pyrrhus of Epirus.
DEREK J COLE
St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex

Sir: Nato bombs kill families in their homes; not enough of the bodies left to bury. Accident. Elderly people's residential home hit. Accident. Workers in unattended car and washing machine factories will spend the rest of their lives crippled. Accident. Passengers burnt to death after their train hit by missiles. Accident. Scores killed in attack on refugee convoy. Accident. Casualties to Nato servicemen, none. This looks to me like a massacre. How many of the judges in the Hague are from Nato countries?
DAVID WRIGHT
Norwich

Ageism in the NHS

Sir: We are writing in response to the recent Gallup survey commissioned by Age Concern showing that one in twenty people over 65 believe they have been refused treatment by the NHS because of their age (report, 19 April).

While successive governments maintain that treatment is provided on the basis of need there is increasing evidence that older people are losing out. There are unequivocal examples of discrimination against older people within the NHS: 20 per cent of coronary care units operate age-related admissions policies and 40 per cent attach age restrictions in the giving of clot-busting thrombolytic drug therapy after heart attacks; women over 65 are not routinely invited for breast screening despite evidence that they are at much greater risk of

developing the disease; and there are GPs' surgeries which refuse to see patients over 65.

Many older people are expected to live with treatable conditions and accept them as the symptoms of growing old.

We call on the Government to acknowledge that older people are often discriminated against in the NHS and to conduct a national survey into the extent of age discrimination in the NHS. SALLY GREENGROSS
Director General
Age Concern England
CHRISTINE HANCOCK
General Secretary
Royal College of Nursing
CLAIRE RAYNER
President
Patients' Association
Sir STEWART SUTHERLAND
Chair
Royal Commission on Long Term Care
London SW16

Adoption obstacles

Sir: Two matters related to the well-being of children which you have recently aired in your columns are not unrelated: the prevalence of abuse and the obstructions put in the way of couples anxious to adopt.

Sir: Peter Sayers (letter, 20 April) assumes that the National Lottery was designed with common sense. More people winning smaller sums - enough to pay a bill or settle a debt - would, indeed, be socially useful. Unfortunately, the purpose of the lottery is the age-old one of providing a route to affluence for a very few. Whilst this chance exists, poorer people can be soothed by it, while society remains unchanged.
ELAINE D HOPKINSON
Cropton, North Yorkshire

Sir: Alan J Page (letter, 20 April) says it should be an

offence to prescribe the Pill to girls under the age of 16. If Mr Page believes that being refused the Pill will dissuade a girl from having under-age sex, he is naive. The law has little or no influence against the force of peer pressure and the desire to appear adult. Cigarettes and alcohol are illegal to sell to under-age people because they cause physical harm. The Pill is legal because it is a force for good: namely the prevention of unwanted pregnancies.
BEN BAWDEN
Godalming, Surrey

Single girls who allow themselves to become pregnant often make excellent mothers for small babies, but they are less competent in coping with obstreperous toddlers, especially when they enter into - as they naturally will - new liaisons with men who are not the fathers of their children.

Where social workers have gone off the rails in relation to adoption is in attempting to set absolute standards of suitability when they should be deciding between the actual options available at the time for the placement of a particular child: the unobtainable best becoming the enemy of an achievable good, however less than perfect.

There is also a lot to be said for the two "mothers" meeting before the handover. No natural mother can be happy in transferring her child to the care of an unknown stranger, while the adopting mother needs to be able to say to the child that the natural mother handed him/her over for their sake, not hers, and was in tears at parting.

The nation simply cannot afford - morally, socially or financially - to allow considerable numbers of its children to be damaged beyond repair. It is absurd to be spending

huge amounts of NHS money on fertility when so many children are being conceived and reared in circumstances that militate against their achieving real maturity. These are our children whose work as adults will furnish our pensions. We are being neither hard-headed nor soft-hearted enough to cope with their needs sensibly.
JOHN A DAVIES
Professor Emeritus of Paediatrics, University of Cambridge
Cambridge

am looking for work, that I am filling in for a time, that this is not really me. But I don't feel a lack of self-respect. I feel proud to care for my son, proud to be a house-husband.

My main need is for this to be seen as natural and normal and to be treated as all other careers are. And if men are seen as natural instinctive carers women can be seen as natural instinctive "hunter-gatherers" pursuing careers.
MARK JEFFRIES
Congleton, Cheshire

Fathers at home

Sir: Why does Owen Whitaker believe it is not instinctive for a father to care for his children ("When Dad's left holding the baby", 19 April)? Presuming childcare is naturally a woman's responsibility and desire is exactly the sort of attitude that makes it difficult for men to stay at home whilst their partners work.

I write this while my 20-month-old son sleeps upstairs, the baby monitor at my side and my wife at work pursuing her very important career.

Like Owen Whitaker, I have found I'm the odd one out as a house-husband. People assume I

Commons privilege

Sir: The news (report, 20 April) that the Speaker of the House of Commons has refused to make the decision to restore the Newark seat to the duly elected MP after the Court of Appeal had quashed her earlier conviction, but has instead referred it to the High Court, is greatly regrettable.

In an ordinary court of law, there has been guidance by the Court of Appeal as regards the giving and taking of expert advice; but in matters relating to the Houses of Parliament, each House is "its own master" and no court in the land could challenge these prerogatives or conventions.

I am sure that the late Lord Chief Justice Edward Coke would turn in his grave to learn now that the current Speaker of the Commons has refused to exercise her authority in the conduct of the business of the House. In the early 17th century he wrote in his *Institutes* (4th volume, p38): "Of the power and jurisdiction of Parliament, for making laws in proceedings by Bill, it is so transcendent and absolute, as it cannot be confined either for causes or persons within any bounds."

The case of Fiona Jones at the present time is purely a procedural matter for the House of Commons alone.
DAVID C de MASSEY
Ely, Cambridgeshire

Killing with style

Sir: I note with interest your current series of photographs of a bullfighting school. What next? The bear-baiters of Pakistan learning how to pull claws out with panache, or the badger-baiters of middle England perfecting a stylish swipe with a spade?
MARGARET V DARMODY
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

Excuse me! Could I have a minute of your time, please?

Very Unusual Jobs Indeed No 44 in our series

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Cost of the car

Sir: While applauding Andreas Whittam Smith's publicising the car-free exhibition at the Oxo Tower (Comment, 18 April), I was struck by the extraordinary lengths some drivers want us to go before they will abandon their motors. I was surprised no one has yet suggested a rickshaw (powered by the unemployed) waiting outside every house.

Those of us who have never owned a car or have given up know that life is already entirely supportable in urban areas without a car. The financial savings are, of course, enormous so that when a motor is needed we have the means to pay for a taxi.

Increase investment in public transport by all means, but don't give hardened motorists the ability to argue that they could not start to wean themselves off their cars straight away.

GEOFFREY THOMPSON
London SE13

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith says, "Never forget the massive advantages car ownership provides." What he means is the perceived and marketed advantages, the images produced by advertising men of cliff-top roads and empty cities where you can park right outside your place of work.

He fails to mention the massive disadvantages of car ownership for the urban user. It costs a fortune (depreciation, tax, insurance, fines, repairs and servicing, petrol); it is inconvenient (traffic, lack of parking, fear of theft, you cannot consume alcohol); it is unhealthy (no exercise, the radiator sucks pollution into the vehicle interior). This is without even going into the disadvantages of car ownership for society.

WILLIAM KAIL
London N16

Sir: Andreas Whittam Smith has a little sideways dig at Welwyn Garden City, suggesting it is too spread out for our own good.

WGC is not the most exciting place in the world - the centre dies by 6pm - but as a cyclist I can tell you that it is bike-sized. On mine today I have visited the local hospital, shopped in the town centre, cycled out to a pub for a glass or maybe two and all without raising a sweat or tiring my elderly legs.

MIKE WALKER
Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire

Archers on target

Sir: Who can have come to write your piece on Michael Powell (Accidental Heroes of the Twentieth Century, 17 April) without knowing that the great Colonel Blimp in Powell and Pressburger's film was Roger Livesey?

Without Livesey's humane performance, *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp* would have been the brittle satire Powell first planned, when he meant to cast Olivier as Blimp. (Anton Walbrook's role, of course, was as Blimp's lifelong German friend.) Livesey's interpretation of Blimp, funny, moving, romantic, idealistic, out-of-date, yet becomes the finest character in the film.

Emerick Pressburger and Roger Livesey were both essential to Michael Powell, a unique and brilliant director but a man who though fascinated by good and evil often failed to tell the difference. It was Pressburger who gave human understanding to the whole wonderful run of the Archers' films. Only after the end of their partnership did Powell's obsessive solo essay *Peeping Tom* somewhat dismay and disperse his following.
JILL WATT
London W8

Killing with style

Sir: I note with interest your current series of photographs of a bullfighting school. What next? The bear-baiters of Pakistan learning how to pull claws out with panache, or the badger-baiters of middle England perfecting a stylish swipe with a spade?
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Bullfighting School No 3: tomorrow's toreros learn about Las Ventas, Spain's most famous bullring

David Rose



MILES KINGDON

When the average human uses numbers, he gets vague and fuzzy, and it doesn't matter

and therefore get the wrong answer. For instance, if you were getting some washing out of the

tumble dryer, and found you had, not a pair of light blue socks but three light blue socks, what would be your first thought?

I'd probably think: "Where did that third sock come from?"

"Exactly! But what you should ask, of course, is: 'Where did the fourth blue sock disappear to?' You see? Same facts; different question. Makes all the difference. Here's another one: how many balloons do you tie on your gatepost to signify you're having a party? Half a dozen? Ten? Twelve? More?"

"You see, you don't know, do you? Actually, all you can say with certainty is that it should be more than one - because one balloon tied to a gatepost is just sad - and less than 100, because 100 balloons would look silly. But what is the correct number? There is no correct

number! Only a vaguely correct number. It's like asking: 'How many sections are there in a newspaper?'

Right. So, how many sections are there in a newspaper?

"Only one. Whatever the editor may think, a newspaper is a newspaper and doesn't have sections. Only bits that fall out."

What about the business section? Isn't that a section?

"Well, occasionally the business pages are printed separately, but that doesn't make them a separate section. What about a newspaper that has its business news in the body of the paper? The business coverage may be just as good, even though it's not a section. And which bit of the *Financial Times* is the business section? No, you can't really subdivide a paper into sec-

tions, any more than you can divide the year into seasons."

But we do divide the year into seasons!

"Yes. Odd, isn't it? Who says that there are four seasons in a year? Two I could understand. The cold bit and the hot bit. The wet bit and the dry bit. But four? Why do we give a separate seasonal name to the transitional periods? In some cultures, autumn is just the end of summer, and not a separate season at all. You see..."

Let's leave the professor there. Let's tiptoe out of the room and leave him talking. Because, according to domestic maths, if I've got this right, the talker and the listener can sometimes be the same person. And in this instance it seems better that way.

THE INDEPENDENT

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Technology of the microchip will not end animal cruelty

THE CURRENT boom in animal-based docu-soaps, with the plethora of programmes such as *Animal Hospital*, *Animal Police* and *Wildlife Police*, has brought one unexpected benefit in its wake – other than that is, than a boost to the career of Rolf Harris.

The sight of ducks going under the anaesthetic and of iguanas in slings has made us much more conscious of animal welfare and correspondingly more willing to report incidents of cruelty to the relevant authorities. This, rather than any underlying surge in sadism, seems to be the reason why the number of convictions for cruelty rose by 17.5 per cent last year.

We should welcome the success of such prosecutions, and the increasing willingness of magistrates to use heavy penalties. But, as the RSPCA has emphasised, the perpetrators of many of the most horrific crimes remain unprosecuted because they cannot be traced. The RSPCA believes that, by encouraging the use of microchips to tag pets, the incidence of animal cruelty will be reduced because owners will be linked to the creatures in their care. The RSPCA may be overstating its case.

"Chipping" is, of course, a good idea and has already been embraced by many responsible owners. It makes for a more responsible ethos of pet ownership and it helps to trace stray animals.

The decision by the Government to launch a pilot scheme for "pet passports", whereby chipped animals with inoculations become exempt from this country's onerous quarantine regulations, has given the existing voluntary schemes some extra impetus. Some 700,000 animals are now fitted with microchips.

But, useful as all this may be, it is impossible to envisage that those owners who are most likely to neglect or maltreat the animals in their care would go to the trouble and expense of having their pets chipped.

The only circumstances in which you could imagine their doing so would be if chipping were to be made compulsory, backed up by the law and some hefty deterrents. It would also have to be backed up by heavy policing. How else could you detect the absence of an invisible chip than by frequent spot checks by the constabulary or by local authority dog-catchers?

It is hard to justify devoting vast new resources even to so worthy a cause as animal welfare when there is so little prospect of the guilty being caught.

The Government is setting up a working party on the permanent identification of dogs, via microchips or tattoos. It should be given every encouragement to devise a workable scheme that overcomes the many valid objections. But we should be under no illusion that its deliberations are likely to bring an early end to cruelty to animals.



A new chance for Indian democracy

INDIA'S CONGRESS party is facing a prodigious task if it is to win enough parliamentary backing to form the country's next government. Having led the country to independence and ruled it for most of the past 50 years, Congress is the most likely successor to the 13-month-old coalition government led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The coalition lost a confidence motion earlier this week by one vote.

Congress, however, has only 139 MPs, well short of the 271 it needs to form a government. Its pool of future leaders is so uninspiring that the party has had to turn to Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born wife of the assassinated Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, in the hope that her famous surname will give the party some electoral charisma.

But the increase of corruption and regionalism without ideology that has blighted Indian politics has not disappeared with the collapse of the BJP coalition. The BJP was defeated when it lost the support of the 18 MPs from a South Indian party run by Jayaram Jayalalitha. The film actress turned politician is famous not only for her collection of 10,500 saris and 350 pairs of shoes but also for bribes she is alleged to have taken while chief minister of the southern state of Tamil Nadu. She decided to pull out of the government coalition when the BJP refused to sack the present governor of Tamil Nadu, where she and her associates face 48 corruption charges.

The BJP's government was mainly, but not all, bad. It did little to prevent a wave of violence against Christians and continued with nuclear testing. However, it did manage to negotiate February's Lahore Accord with Pakistan, in which India and Pakistan agreed to give advance warning of missile tests. The BJP government brought a measure of stability to India and showed the

Congress that it had a fight on its hands. The decision by Congress to pass the BJP's budget has buoyed up the Indian stock-market and gained plaudits for its responsibility. What it really proves is that the parties essentially agree on the economic management of the country.

None the less, it does matter who is in power. The insurance industry, roads and rail all need to be modernised if the economy is to grow. Improvements to India's ailing infrastructure cannot occur without government backing; government backing is impossible when policy is in the hands of short-lived, bickering coalitions.

India's bureaucrats and superb judiciary have saved the country from the army coups and hyper-inflation of South East Asia and South America. But while the economy is still largely run by bureaucrats, it is unable to fulfil its subcontinent-sized potential. India may need to change its political system to the French model – with its combination of president and prime minister – if Indian democracy is to pull out of its spiral of descent.

If the Tories didn't exist, would we really need to invent them?

IF IT isn't too rude to ask, what is the Tory party for? It is doing its best to confuse us about the answer. As the 20th anniversary of Margaret Thatcher's first victory looms, William Hague is preaching something called kitchen-table Conservatism: what it means I cannot tell you. But let us not worry too much – there is sure to be another relaunch along soon.

Now Peter Lilley has decided that the proper response to the continuing doldrums is to howl remorse for the ideology of the past. It is not a pretty sight. On the same day, the Centre for Policy Studies publishes a guide to the future by the Conservatives' former advertising guru Maurice Saatchi and the economist Peter Warburton. They predict that voters will become disillusioned with Labour because: "Taxes are always going up but the Government never seems to have enough to spend on the good things like health and education."

The pair then call for greater independence from government and better incentives for individuals and groups to take initiatives. It is a recognisably clear, dry Conservative position. The only trouble is that is almost diametrically opposed to Mr Lilley's call for Tories to stop fighting for free market causes. Conservatives are starting to occasion an unfamiliar emotion in me: pity. One friend, a lifelong activist who has spent years canvassing Labour voters with large dogs in unwinnable seats, and eaten more rubber chicken than the human digestive system can be expected to take, called after the reports of Mr Lilley's mea culpa and said simply, "I really don't know what it is that I belong to any more."

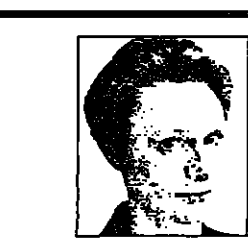
Mr Lilley is deputy leader of the party and responsible for reviewing policy, so his comments cannot be dismissed as just another existential wobble by a depressed member of the back benches. He rose and thrived as a Thatcherite of the purest water. On the scale of great recantations, his call for the Tories to move away from market principles in health and education is a bit like Galileo announcing that the sun did go round the earth after all. But then, Galileo had the inquisition to worry about; Mr Lilley, the last I heard, was not similarly threatened.

The source of his intimidation lay elsewhere – in the focus groups which report that the public does not trust the Tories on the NHS and on the welfare state. But then, the public never did, all through the years of Conservative electoral dominance. Voters simply believed that the Tory party was cruel but efficient. Now they believe it is cruel but inefficient. Conservatism has what its social worker would call low self-esteem. Hence the desperate slash and burn operation on its old beliefs. At this rate, the faithful will be reduced to watching bootleg videos of Thatcher's speeches in bunkers.

Officials point out that expenditure on health and education actually rose faster under the Tories than under Labour. This admission used to pain Mr Lilley greatly: I remember that he took pride in responding that the rate at which spending rose was slowing down. Now the party has taken to presenting what it once considered its failure to curb state spending as a virtue, which is a bit like telling suspicious dinner guests that the soufflé is really meant to be that flat.

All defeated parties have to come to terms with the shift in political realities. This is what Mr Lilley is attempting to do in returning to the explicit acceptance that state education, the publicly funded NHS and a comprehensive social security system are untouchables. This is the ground the Tories occupied between the times of Rab Butler and Edward Heath. Thatcherism was as much a response to the dead-handed corporate statism of Heath as it was a revolt against the left. The Mr Lilley of 1999 has taken up cudgels against his 20 years younger self. Why?

Here is a forensic and intelligent politician who understood the full im-



ANNE MCELVOY
Mr Hague is preaching about 'kitchen-table Conservatism': what it means I cannot tell you

pected of New Labour rather earlier than his more bumptious front-line colleagues. He has always admired Peter Mandelson's role in modernising the Labour Party, so much so that he once pointed out Mr Mandelson to me at a very loud party with the words, "That man used to be my pin-up." At least I thought that's what he said. When I passed on the compliment to Mr Mandelson, the then minister rolled his eyes and said, "What he really said was that I used to be his pair." It was a grave disappointment to discover that the two had merely been twinned in the Commons system that allows MPs a night off voting now and then.

Today, however, New Labour really is Mr Lilley's pin-up. There is only one example of a party recanting so much of its past and becoming more attractive to the voters and that, of course, is the Labour Party of Tony Blair. But the position of Mr Hague's party after the 1997 defeat is only superficially analogous with that of the Labour Party after 1979. The Tory Party changed the terms of the argument in Britain about economics, trade-union legislation and the role of the state. It moved the consensus in a direction of privatisation and lowering labour costs which many other countries have chosen to follow and adapt. Mr Blair was in the fortunate position of being able to take on great swathes of the Thatcherite settlement and add some popular alleviations such as the minimum wage, limited rights to trade-union representation and a slightly more redistributive emphasis in taxation.

Mr Lilley, on the other hand, is call-

ing on Conservatives to accept old pieties about the role of the state which lag behind events, rather than point the way ahead. His call for a return to acceptance of the post-war welfare state and a publicly funded NHS is out of date, even in New Labour thinking. If throwing money at education worked, we would have the best schools in Europe. We do not. If the NHS could keep up with rising demand simply by expanding the amount decanted from GDP into it year on year, then that is what the Government would do.

But Mr Blair knows that these are not adequate responses to the problems of our public services. There is nothing sacrosanct about the state. It is a delivery system for services. When it fails to deliver, as too many schools and too many sectors of the NHS do, we should look at alternatives. The Government accepts this in opening the way to privatising failing schools. It is already preparing to remove service provision from local authorities that under-perform. I have not yet noticed a popular backlash under the banner "Spare our council the indignity of scrutiny".

It is still unpopular to say so, but I believe that the Government will, in time, impose some NHS charges in order to free funds to maintain the quality of essential services. These are the debates that will really shape the future of our public services. Late converts to the comforting certainties of the welfare state from a Tory Party down on its luck do it no service. These are different times. They're so Old Labour, these old Thatcherites.

of our important parliamentary buildings. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

THE CONCERN that a sovereign Germany could lose its sense of proportion is hardly justified, and yet it is necessary. Bonn does not deserve ridicule and scorn. We are continuing Bonn in Berlin and we are beginning something new in a house of democracy oriented towards the future. *Die Welt*

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
German reaction to the opening of the Reichstag in Berlin

ing site. The rest of the Republic of Germany will be watching to see that federalism is not subverted by the dominant capital. Yet, in trading and financial terms, the capital is really only a dwarf. Surely this means that Berlin can only play an important role economically as a hub towards Eastern Europe. *Handelsblatt*

THIS SIMPLE beginning with the reopening of the Reichstag building may well reassure all of those Germans who, for various reasons, were afraid of Berlin and a possible "Berlin Republic".

The opening of the Reichstag was, thankfully, a celebration without overkill and embarrassments – apart from the handover of a giant symbolic key, which had overtones of the opening of a local savings bank rather than one

of our important parliamentary buildings. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

THE CONCERN that a sovereign Germany could lose its sense of proportion is hardly justified, and yet it is necessary. Bonn does not deserve ridicule and scorn. We are continuing Bonn in Berlin and we are beginning something new in a house of democracy oriented towards the future. *Die Welt*

WHITE-WASHED GERMAN unity. What should one measure achievement by, if not the original plan? After 10 years, the stock-taking still, even now, has the prefix "interim". Unity for Germany has not yet been fully achieved. Gerhard Schröder is prone to white-washing situations in East Germany. Just like someone who is playing the lottery, he talks about his ticket, comforting himself with the hope that perhaps some small miracle may

happen. What has been achieved up to now is not impressive, not when measured against original intentions. Schröder was offered the chance to change this with the Reichstag building, but he preferred to stick to Helmut Kohl's optimism. *Berliner Zeitung*

BERLIN IS not simply an enormous conglomeration of cranes and diggers. Politically it also resembles a workshop or build-

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If we have been successful once, we can be successful again."
Alec Salmond, leader of the SNP on the potential of the Scottish economy

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"It is your business when the wall next door catches fire."
Horace (Quintus Horatius Flaccus), Roman poet

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Bringing it all back home



DEBORAH ORR

In a world of hate and violence, why should I not find a nail bomb on my own doorstep?

ON THE day after the bombing of Belgrade began, I leapt on to a plane, not as a journalist headed for a war zone, but as a daughter-in-law who was travelling towards the final battle of a single life that was growing more provisional with every hour that I and my family hurtled through the atmosphere.

And there were many of those hours, for my father-in-law had emigrated to Australia nearly 20 years before, disillusioned - socialist unrealistic that he was - with the geopolitical exigencies of life in Britain. Born in 1919, into a Europe newly at peace, he had been a committed pacifist all of his life. Among the first of the young men to be called up during the Second World War, he had seen it through as a conscientious objector. Having made his stand so early in the war, he had had no idea of the scale of the horror and evil that would later emerge, although he never really made it absolutely clear whether the wisdom of hindsight had prompted him to reject his decision.

Certainly he suffered for his choice, as did his family. Many years later, he married a bawdy New York Jew who, by the time their union had become a private war of attrition, could not resist railing at him for standing by and doing nothing as her people were systematically slaughtered.

As he lay on his deathbed, assaulted by cancer and held firmly in the seductive, unforgiving grasp of sister morphine, he knew that at the end of his life span events were picking up where they had left off at the start of it, with bloody vicious war in the Balkans. So goes this century, and so go so many others before it. Only the terminally ignorant can now fail to be aware that, for the fanatics of the Balkans, the trouble all started with the Battle of Kosovo in 1389.

What ran through the mind of Professor Peter Self as he lay dying, for much of the time unable to speak, but still able to hear and to think? That his life as a pacifist had been a life lived very much against the grain of the 20th century was one thing. But what of his life as a distinguished academic, writer and educator? Did he die doubting the true worth of the significant contribution



The aftermath of last Saturday's bomb which was detonated in a busy shopping precinct in Brixton, south London

Dave Trainer/Reuters

he had made to the fragile civilisation of humankind? Was he tempted to contemplate the carnage in Europe and conclude that we never, ever learn? It is a terrible thought, which didn't go away when some days after his funeral I realised that the service had been held on April Fool's Day.

Meanwhile, we had some practicalities to consider. Peter's death and funeral had taken place within a few days of our arrival in Canberra for a three-week visit. So there we were - in this absurd country that so recently and so tenuously had become a white man's country, and whose own land had been ethnically cleansed with the utmost brutality only a few generations before - far away from the war in Europe. We decided to take advantage of the commodity that Australia has more of than anything else, and hit the wide open spaces.

By the time we started driving through the countryside where *Mad Max* was filmed, we found ourselves having panicky thoughts about World War Three. Maybe we should stay in the bush and live with the blackfellas. The tribe who lived in this country was particularly bloodthirsty. Would I be subjected to circumcision and infibulation?

Would my husband's urethra be yanked out of its fleshy protection, not to be put back until it had been exhaustively tenderised with the blade of a blunt knife?

By the time we'd traversed the continent, and reached the Darwin home of my husband's old friend Kerry, we were feeling pretty spooked. Kerry works for the government as community liaison officer for the leader of the opposition in the Northern Territory. Basically, he spends his time visiting the Aboriginal outstations of the Northern Territory, doing what he can for the dispossessed indigenous people of Australia, while at the same time attempting to persuade them that they really should be voting Labor.

Here, among the cultural workers and political activists of Darwin, the Kosovo tragedy was not making much of an impact. These middle-class white letters are dedicated to the cause of the blackfellas and transfixed by the longstanding troubles in East Timor. There, fresh atrocities were taking place on the day we arrived. Massacre, ethnic cleansing, ignored UN resolutions - Darwin was quite the home from home. Except, of course, that Indonesia is a country that Europe still feels it can do business with.

One woman, who seemed non-plussed by our wish to devour CNN's coverage of the Kosovo crisis, kindly explained to me that Kosovo to them was like East Timor to us. We had, she'd wager, barely heard of it. I replied that thanks to the not inconsiderable and broadly positive influence of one John Pilger on the media in Britain, we were in fact quite well up on it.

I certainly knew what Pilger's line on Kosovo would be, even though I hadn't seen a British publication for weeks. How odd, I thought, that he is against the use of intervention in Belgrade, but seemingly in favour of it in Jakarta. Can UN violence really be so much more moral than Nato violence? Does it have to follow that the involvement of the US in any conflict means that the operation is unsavagably tainted?

My own worry about America's idea of itself as the world's policeman is that since it's so good at misreading the situations it involves itself in, the US should really be a little more backward in coming forward. But that opinion isn't a matter of principle, just of practicality, and I find that many of the left's "principled stands" on war and intervention sound knee-jerk.

Thoughts of violence didn't let up even at the very moment we said goodbye to Australia. As a going-home present, Kerry gave us a pair of enormous, heavy old boomerangs. They weren't for hunting, he explained to us. These were punishment boomerangs. They were wielded in unison, working down both sides of the body, first breaking both collarbones, last breaking both ankles. After this, the smashed-up miscreant would be pished on by all the women members of the tribe.

We got on the plane home, punishment boomerangs clanking, finally to see some British newspapers. They did not disappoint. Frederick Forsyth was calling for the unleashing of the dogs of war; Alex Salmond had kissed goodbye to his career by confusing his own unpardonable folly with Nato's; and the *Socialist Worker*, opportunistic as ever, was taking out ads in the national press and exhorting us to "Stop the bombing! Read *Socialist Worker*!" If only ending wars were that simple.

Back home, I switched on the television news. The first, sketchy reports of a new bomb atrocity were being broadcast, this time not in Kosovo, but on the street

where I've spent the vast majority of my Saturday afternoons over the last decade. In a world of hate and violence, why should I not come home from the other side of the world to find there is a nail bomb on my own doorstep?

Whether or not this was the work of Combat 18 is almost immaterial. The fact that anyone could make a call from the scene of an 18-year-old's murder in order to make such a hateful claim is simply more proof, if proof were ever needed, that violent, destructive, murderous hatred is a central part of the human condition. Plenty of modern Britons aren't above a little ethnic cleansing, any more than they were in the last century, when they arrived in Australia.

The only way to protest against this awful truth is Peter's way. But the only way we can really try to bring it to an end is by retaliating in kind. And in this way a peaceful humanity remains out of reach. I'm proud of what Peter did in the war, even though I'm also grateful to all of those who fought. There is no paradox here, any more than there is a paradox in the fact that for the foreseeable future, peace in this world is something that has to be fought for.

RIGHT OF REPLY

JONATHAN HIRST



The vice-chair of the Bar Council answers criticism of the "culture of compensation"

IT IS true that people are much readier to complain than they were in the past and to demand compensation. And, of course, some claims are trivial or ridiculous or even downright dishonest. But that is only part of the story.

There are two main reasons for the growth in complaints. First, the public is no longer deferential to public authority or to the professions. They will not put up with excuses or incompetence.

Second, Parliament has conferred new rights on the individual - rights in employment and rights not to be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, ethnic origin, or disability. These new rights have had a profound consequence for the way women and the ethnic minorities are treated. They will be equally significant for the treatment of the disabled.

Surely, this is something of which we should be proud. If new rights are conferred on the individual, we must expect them to be exercised.

The greatest problem lies with the public sector, especially some local councils and the police. That some public services are ineptly run is not the complainant's fault. It is deplorable that councils are so often found liable for racial and sexual discrimination and for unfair dismissal. The costs to local taxpayers are avoidable and unnecessary. They are a sign of bad management and poor claims-handling.

Next year, the European Convention on Human Rights will open up a new field of enforceable rights. With new rights will come new responsibilities. The challenge for the judiciary and the profession will be to maintain a sensible balance. Of course, the lawyers will be blamed for promoting "unwarranted" claims, but ultimately we are but a reflection of the society in which we all live.

Heroes of space and time

ERATOSTHENES OF Cyrene was chief librarian of the famous library at Alexandria, and a contemporary of Archimedes, from whom he acquired his knowledge of geometry. His eclectic interests included mapping and measuring things. The chance discovery that there was a well in Cyrene to the bottom of which the sun's light penetrated on the summer solstice enabled him to calculate the circumference of the earth, by measuring the angle of the shadow of a stick set up in Alexandria on the same day. His estimation was remarkably close to the modern figure, and Kitty Ferguson calls him the father of "geodesy": the science of earth measurement.

Another prominent figure in the intellectual hothouse of third-century BC Alexandria was Aristarchus of Samos,



WEDNESDAY BOOKS

MEASURING THE UNIVERSE: THE HISTORICAL QUEST TO QUANTIFY SPACE
BY KITTY FERGUSON. HEADLINE, £14.99

THE BIRTH OF TIME: HOW WE MEASURED THE AGE OF THE UNIVERSE
BY JOHN GRIBBIN, WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON, £18.99

who published a book of hypotheses that included the "inspired guess" that the earth rotates around the Sun. This wild surmise was flatly contradicted by all observational evidence, and for a further 1,700 years the Earth-centred system of astronomy, most fully formulated by Ptolemy in the second century AD, held sway.

In the black-and-white world of the school textbook, the Ptolemaic system is plain wrong. But Ferguson points out that all motion is relative, and that it is perfectly possible to construct a mathematically coherent model of the universe with, say, your cat at its centre. It merely makes the sums more convoluted.

The Ptolemaic system was highly successful at predicting the movement of heavenly bodies, and until the 16th century was the foundation not just of an educated person's idea of the physical world, but of the human condition. Dante's *Divine Comedy* is the greatest expression of this world view. The young Galileo, it is intriguing to learn, made something of a name for himself by giving public lectures on the shape, size and location of Dante's hell.

The phrase "Copernican revolution" can sound tired, but Ferguson restores a full sense of the seismic change Copernicus engendered: "No period in the evolution of thought about the universe and humankind's place in it has been more complicated or more ultimately decisive than the century and a half following the publication of *De Revolutionibus* in 1543."

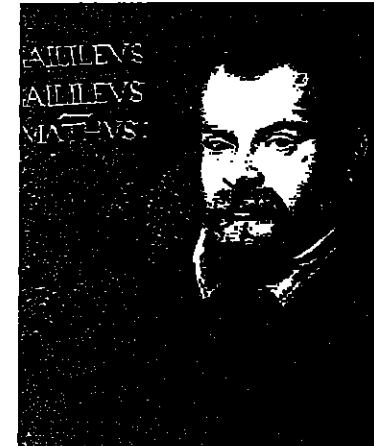
She is equally good at teasing out the story of Galileo's advocacy of Copernicus, and his trial for heresy. The Catholic Church was not initially greatly bothered by the idea (indeed, it had made use of Copernicus's calculations when producing the new Gregorian calendar in 1582), and Pope

Urban VIII was a friend who almost certainly knew that Galileo was right.

The reasons behind the trial remain mysterious, but one thing is sure. Galileo did not help his own cause by deploying the "pitiful defence strategy" of claiming his *Dialogo* had been misinterpreted and was really pro-Ptolemy. The trial has an iconic status in the history of science, and Ferguson makes the sensible observation that the worst they did to him was to hold him under house arrest in his own villa. Stalin's brutal purge of physicists who advocated the Big Bang model of the universe - which implies a beginning, and therefore the possibility of a creator - is less frequently aired.

John Gribbin covers a good deal of the same ground as Ferguson, but in a relatively lacklustre manner. Galileo's trial is covered with a single sentence that sneers vaguely at the Church. Other familiar scientific whipping-hoys are paraded, notably Archbishop James Ussher, whose scriptural studies dated the Creation to 4004 BC. In his elegant essay "Fall in the House of Ussher," Stephen Jay Gould observes that Ussher has become "a symbol of ancient and benighted authoritarianism" and that "one can scarcely find a textbook in introductory geology that does not take a swipe at Ussher's date". Gould, like Ferguson, is capable of imagining how the world looked before we discovered certain things about it.

The latter part of *The Birth of*



Galileo: accused of heresy

Time concerns the recent kerfuffle about the age of the universe. It successfully conveys the messy, groping world of modern astronomy - one of statistical probabilities and vast computers processing thousands of gigabytes of data. The main bone of contention was between astrophysicists whose work suggested that some star systems might be as old as 18 billion years, and the cosmological camp, who dated the universe as considerably younger. Initial data from the Hubble Space Telescope in 1994 appeared to support the younger age. Working out the Hubble Constant (the rate of expansion of the universe) was essential to resolving the conflict, and Gribbin was one of the astronomers at Sussex University who achieved this feat - approximately.

Everyone is now agreed that the oldest star systems are between 10 and 13 billion years old, and that the universe itself is between 13 and 16 billion years old - probably. This seems a little indecisive to me. At least Archbishop Ussher had the courage of his convictions.

JAMES ROGERS

WEDNESDAY POEM

WHY I SKIP MY HIGH SCHOOL REUNIONS
BY CRAIG ARNOLD

Because the geeks and jocks were set in stone,
I, ground between. Because the girls I ate
lunch with are married now, most out of spite
- because the ones I spurned are still alone.
Because I took up smoking at nineteen, late,
and just now quit - because, since then, I've grown,
into and out of something they've never known.
Because at the play, backstage, on opening night
she conjured out of the vast yards of her dress
an avocado and a razorblade,
slit the one open with the other, flayed
the pebbled skin, and offered me a slice

- because I thought that one day I'd say yes,
and I was wrong, and I am still afraid.

From Craig Arnold's "Shells", published by Yale University Press (£7.50) in the Yale Younger Poets series

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Willi Stoph

WILLI STOPH was one of the architects of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) which was proclaimed in the Soviet Zone of Germany on 7 October 1949 and dissolved on 3 October 1990 when German unity was achieved. He twice served as Chairman of the Council of Ministers (head of government). Of the Communist leaders deposed in the GDR in October/November 1989 Stoph was the longest-serving member of the ruling Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party (SED). He had uninterrupted membership from 1953 onwards.

He was born in Berlin in 1914 and grew up in a working-class milieu. After completing elementary school he took up an apprenticeship in the building industry. He had other interests. In 1938 he joined the youth movement of the Communist Party of Germany (KPD) and in 1931 enrolled in the KPD. He later claimed he had carried on "anti-fascist activities" after the rise of Hitler in 1933. From 1935 to 1937 he completed his compulsory national service in the artillery. He served in the wartime Wehrmacht with the rank of corporal until he was wounded in 1942.

After the fall of Nazism he was appointed to various leading positions in the building industry of the Soviet Zone. In these capacities he worked closely with officers of the Soviet Military Administration whose trust he gained. He also climbed the ladder of the SED serving, 1948-50, as head of the party's economic policy department. He was then appointed one of the secretaries of the Central Committee of the SED.

As Minister of Interior from May 1952 to June 1955 Stoph was responsible for the GDR's police and penal institutions including the notorious Bautzen, Berlin-Rummelsburg and Waldheim prisons where many

political prisoners were held in very poor conditions. More importantly for his future, he was also responsible for the creation of the GDR armed forces, which were officially disguised as the People's Police in Barracks (KVP). The poor showing of the KVP during the workers' revolt of June 1953 did not appear to damage his career.

At the same time he was in

Stoph joined in Honecker's overthrow in October 1989, and was himself ousted on 7 November. Two days later the Berlin Wall was opened

charge, between July 1953 and November 1955, of the State Security Service (SSD). However, he did not in reality exercise close control over the SSD. After the death of Stalin in 1953, and following the Soviet example, the SSD had lost its separate status and was placed under the jurisdiction of the Interior Ministry. Its head continued to act more or less independently and from November 1955 it once again became the organ of an independent Ministry for State Security.

As Minister for National Defence from 1956 to 1960 Stoph was given the military rank of Army General,

the highest rank in the GDR, and he attempted to build up professional armed services made up of volunteers with high morale. Western observers often regarded them as more imposing than their Soviet "brothers in arms". In May 1958 the GDR armed forces (NVA) were admitted to membership of the Warsaw Pact thus recognising their military efficiency.

However, despite the perks and privileges granted to serving and former members of the NVA, recruitment became an increasing problem. Compulsory military service, introduced in West Germany in 1956, was not regarded as practical as it was feared that many young men would evade service by fleeing to the West via Berlin. The building of the Wall in August 1961 removed this option and compulsory service was introduced in the following year.

By that time Stoph had moved up as deputy head of government increasingly taking over the work of the ailing premier, Otto Grotewohl. Between 1962 and 1964 Stoph served as First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and between 1964 and 1973 as Chairman, that is head of government. As such he played a major role in the 1960s in attempts to make the GDR's economy more efficient. He was second only to Walter Ulbricht, First Secretary of the ruling Socialist Unity Party, in the GDR's hierarchy. He owed his position to his dedication and loyalty to the Soviet Union and to Walter Ulbricht personally.

In 1970 Stoph was sent by Ulbricht to meet Willy Brandt, the West German Chancellor, at Erfurt (GDR) and later at Kassel in West Germany. At Erfurt Stoph was shocked and Brandt was moved, when a crowd of ordinary East Germans gathered outside Brandt's hotel and called for



Stoph (right) with Willy Brandt, then Chancellor of West Germany, at a meeting in Erfurt in the GDR, 1970

AKG London

the West German leader. These two meetings were the beginning of the improvement in relations between the two German states which led, 20 years later, to the re-establishment of German unity.

Stoph's advancement under Ulbricht did not stop him from taking part in the palace coup against the First Secretary in 1971 when Erich Honecker replaced Ulbricht. Ulbricht was allowed to retain the position of titular head of state and, after the death of Ulbricht in 1973, Stoph was removed from his powerful position as head of government to the representative position

which Ulbricht had occupied. As the GDR's economic situation worsened Stoph was reinstated as Chairman of the Council of Ministers in 1976, a position he retained until 1989.

Although officially second only to Honecker, Stoph was not one of Honecker's cronies and he was ready to join in his overthrow in October 1989. Stoph himself was ousted on 7 November 1989 when his entire government resigned. Two days later the Berlin Wall was opened. On 17 November he was removed from the Council of State and from the Volkskammer (parliament) to which

he had belonged since 1950. His expulsion from the SED followed on 3 December and his arrest days later.

Along with most of his colleagues, he was charged with corruption and misuse of office. He was released on grounds of ill-health in February 1990. He was re-arrested in May 1991 and charged with co-responsibility, as member of the Politburo and the GDR Defence Council, for the deaths on the Berlin Wall. Once again he was released because of his poor medical condition.

As head of government rather than head of the SED, Willi Stoph's image was slightly better than that

of Erich Honecker. Yet he remained a grey, nondescript figure whose main talent was to survive.

DAVID CHILDS

Willi Stoph, politician; born Berlin 9 July 1914; Head, Economic Policy Department, Socialist Unity Party (SED) 1948-1950, Minister of Interior 1952-55, Minister of National Defence 1956-60; First Deputy Chairman, Council of Ministers 1962-64, Chairman 1964-1973, 1976-89; Chairman, Council of State (head of state) 1973-76; married (four children); died Berlin 13 April 1999.



Durie of Durie was commissioned into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 1925

Lt-Col Raymond Durie of Durie

AT DAWN on 8 December 1941, the day after the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor, Captain Raymond Dewar-Durie (later to be Durie of Durie), a liaison officer in the Consulate in Shanghai, woke to the sound of Japanese gun fire. He immediately set about burning secret documents and then, with his commanding officer, Major Sidney Hunt, had breakfast at the American Club. After he had finished he went to his flat to pick up some of his belongings. While he was packing Japanese troops arrived.

The Chinese lift-boy and the Russian concierge took their lives in their hands and denied that he was on the premises. With Hunt, Dewar-Durie then went into hiding in a variety of strange places, looked after by Chinese friends for nine days. Posters everywhere offered a substantial reward for information on British and American officers, making escape imperative.

After several false starts they were smuggled in the boot of a car surrounded by furs, lying head to toe with the dicky seat on top of them. The car belonged to a Chinese general who enjoyed smuggling furs as a sideline. He had bribed the Japanese colonel to ride in his car to see it past the border guards. After it had passed through two sentry posts unchecked and the colonel was

dropped off, the two men were released - much to their relief. They spent their first night being pecked by the inhabitants of a hen-house.

Still in Japanese-occupied territory and often uncertain of the allegiance of their guides, for the next fortnight they lived precariously, on one occasion hiding in a sampan loaded with pigs. "The sampan relieved our feet, but was very hard on one's stern end," Dewar-Durie was to recall. It was to take 51 perilous days to reach the safety of free China. The final few days were spent anxiously with three American journalists as they waited at Lake Tai for a junk to take them to freedom.

Dewar-Durie and Hunt transmitted messages to the War Office as to their position. Unbeknown to them they had both been reported "missing believed dead". Dewar-Durie had earlier received orders to rejoin his regiment but they arrived after the only available ship had sailed. The next sailing was 9 December. While he was hiding, those who made it to the ship in the hope of freedom were taken prisoner.

Raymond Dewar-Durie was born in 1905 in Persia, where his father, Robert, was the manager of the Imperial Bank and by 1916 had become involved in British and Russian intelligence as well as receiving a Military Cross while on a temporary

commission in the British Army. Raymond saw little of him as a child; he was sent back to England aged five, first to a dame school before prep school in Hampshire and then on to Blundell's. A good all-round sportsman with a natural eye for a ball, he later had a trial for Harlequins and played cricket for the Free Foresters.

After Sandhurst he was commissioned in 1925 into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who were based on the Isle of Wight. He went to China in 1929 as a platoon commander of the Legion Guard and two years later was involved in anti-piracy duty on Chinese passenger ships. He was to remain in China in a number of posts until 1935. He studied Mandarin during this time and whenever possible worked on a Chinese/English military dictionary.

In 1940 he was appointed Assistant Military Liaison Officer to the Consulate General in Shanghai where he was responsible for recruiting and dispatching all volunteers in China for British forces. His revised dictionary was published in 1942. At the end of the war he was posted to Germany to deal with POWs and displaced persons.

Back in China in 1949 as Assistant Military Attaché to the British Embassy in Nanking, accredited to the Nationalist government of Chiang

Kai-shek, he played a vital part in the HMS *Amethyst* "incident". On 19 April, while sailing up the River Yangtze to Nanking with supplies, the ship was fired on by Communist artillery and 17 of the crew were killed including the doctor and sick berth attendant; the captain, along with many others, was seriously wounded.

Acting as the interpreter to the Assistant Naval Attaché, Lt-Cdr John Kerans, who was to take command of *Amethyst*, and accompanied by a doctor and six Chinese soldiers with a heavy medical chest in a wheelbarrow, Dewar-Durie made a hazardous journey along the banks of the Yangtze. Close to the ship they stumbled upon 50 or more wounded. While the doctor attended them Dewar-Durie rowed Kerans across to the beleaguered ship in a sampan, but she glided away from them and they were unable to board her.

They returned to deal with the wounded and arrange transportation. Later Kerans boarded the ship on his second attempt while Dewar-Durie put the last of the wounded on to a train. While waiting to see if the ship would be scuttled (it wasn't), he spotted soldiers with red arm-bands advancing and beat a hasty retreat. Shanghai fell to the Communists in May but *Amethyst* made a heroic escape down the river two months

later. Dewar-Durie moved with the embassy to Peking.

After retirement from the Army in 1958 he worked for Guinness in Belfast and later took a Retired Officer's job. In 1969 he left Northern Ireland and settled in Pewsey where he was an active secretary to the local Conservative Association.

Although there was never any doubt that Raymond Dewar-Durie was head of the Durie family which had settled in Fife since the 16th century, he did not change his name until 1988, when he followed up the Lord Lyon King of Arms' direction, first made to his father, to claim Chief of the Name and Arms of Durie and became Durie of Durie. He was a modest and self-effacing man who enjoyed a very happy marriage of over 60 years and delighted in his family. As a 90th birthday present he was given a helicopter flight from Pewsey, which passed over the Isle of Wight, where he had first joined his regiment in 1925.

MAX ARTHUR

Raymond Varley Dewar-Durie, soldier; born Isfahan, Persia 10 August 1905; recognised as Durie of Durie 1988; married 1932 Joan Dobley (died 1933; one daughter); 1938 Frances Moule (one son, one daughter); died Pewsey, Wiltshire 29 March 1999.

Lord Cayzer

LORD CAYZER was an aristocratic businessman of the old school, a tall, distinguished sportsman who proved to be immensely shrewd at business, noted for his flair, his excellent timing and taking the long view. As a result he left a fortune certainly well above the official estimate of £285m.

Throughout his life he was a notable spokesman for the shipping industry, although he sensibly shifted much of the family money out of shipping in the 1960s and 1970s. Cayzer's grandfather, Charles Cayzer, founded the Clan Line, owners of what became a 100-strong fleet of ships, most of them tramp steamers sailing round the Cape of Good Hope to India and the Far East. Cayzer's father August was created a baronet in 1904.

Nicholas Cayzer - or Sir Nicholas Cayzer as he was known from the age of 10 in 1921 until he was given a life peerage in 1982 - naturally went to Eton and Cambridge. Equally naturally he started work for the family shipping line in 1931 when he was only 21, becoming a director seven years later. So far so orthodox. But in the 63 years until he finally retired as chairman of the family holding company - by then called Caledonia Investments - he had successfully weathered the transformation of the family business from shipping to a diversified industrial group. He

remained president of the family business until he died.

In the early part of the Second World War Cayzer served in the Army but was soon deploying his managerial talents in organising convoys. After the war his first major coup came in 1955 when, as vice-chairman of the Clan Line, he master-minded the take-over of the Union Castle Line, best known for its fleet of speedy mail liners running between Southampton and Cape Town, thus creating a group, British & Commonwealth Shipping, with 100 vessels. His success was the greater because his unsuccessful rival was Harley Drayton, at the time one of the most feared of City financiers.

After taking over the chairmanship of B & C on the death of his uncle Lord Rotherwick in 1958, Cayzer led the family's retreat from shipping, putting the family fleet into a notably successful joint venture, Overseas Containers, and investing in a number of unrelated businesses. These included British United Airways, a successful independent airline, the private Wellington Hospital in St John's Wood and Gartmore, an investment management firm named after a family estate in Perthshire.

But Cayzer's biggest coup came with the growth of a series of broking and investment businesses within British & Commonwealth. B & C was run by the entrepreneurial John

Gunn whose daring business tactics ran against the caution habitually practised by the Cayzer family. Luckily (or cleverly?) the Cayzers decided to sell out of a group which they no longer controlled and did so, receiving £428m for their stake, which represented four-fifths of the family's assets. Their sale was superbly timed, coming only three days before the stockmarket crash of October 1987 and only a short time before the virtual collapse of B & C. Typically, Cayzer bought back control of Exco, the money brokers which had been the foundation of B & C's financial portfolio, for a mere £20m five years after the collapse.

Despite the family's shift away from shipping Cayzer retained an interest in the industry, especially in Liverpool - the home port for the family fleet where he was chairman of the Steamship Owners' Association. He also acted as President of the British Chamber of Shipping and the General Council of British Shipping, and when he was elevated to the peerage by Margaret Thatcher in 1982 he took the title Lord Cayzer of St Mary Axe - the street in the City of London most closely associated with the shipping industry.

The elevation was in recognition of his steadfast support for the Tory Party. He had been chairman of the local Conservative Association in Chester, a town where his uncle had



Cayzer: retreat from shipping

been MP before the war. More importantly he was a generous donor to the party and a fundraiser through a mysterious body called British United Industrialists.

NICHOLAS FAITH

William Nicholas Cayzer, ship owner and businessman; born 21 January 1910; Bt 1921; created 1982 Baron Cayzer; married 1935 Elizabeth Williams (died 1995; two daughters); died 16 April 1999.

Peppermint Harris

PEPPERMINT HARRIS was best known for his 1951 No 1 rhythm and blues hit "I Got Loaded" (covered by everyone from Elvis Costello to Los Lobos and Terry Evans, on whose 1996 recording of the tune Ry Cooder played some excellent guitar). However, Harris was not a major player.

Indeed, his very name indicates that. His first recording had been a 78 for the Houston Gold Star label under the name of Peppermint Nelson in 1948 - his real name was Harrison D. Nelson Jr, and he had acquired the Peppermint sobriquet from a local dance-hall owner. But when he went into the studio for Bob Shad's company Sittin' In With Records a year later, Shad forgot to write Nelson's name on the tape box, and misremembered it as Harris when he came to print up the record labels.

But the release, "Raining in My Heart", became something of a local success for him in Houston, Texas, so from then on the wrong name stuck, and Harris he was. Besides, he came from a religious family, and they had already expressed unhappiness at his flirting with the "devil's music", as the blues was still known in those days. So Harris decided to keep the new name, and keep peace with his people.

Born in Texarkana, Texas in 1925,

he moved to Houston in 1947 after naval service in the Second World War, and was taken under the wing of Houston's greatest bluesman, Sam "Lightnin'" Hopkins, who gave him an introduction to Gold Star records and, ultimately, the title of his 1991 retrospective of sides recorded for Jewel in the 1960s and 1970s, reissued by the Collectables label, *Being Black Twice*. Lightnin' said to him that "Playing the blues in the old days was like being black twice."

However, Harris's music was far from socially conscious, as titles like "I'll Wipe Away Your Tears", "Is There Someone Else", and of course his lament about the perils of the bottle, "I Got Loaded", indicated. He tried to follow up the latter title with other booze-based anthems with titles like "Have Another Drink and Talk to Me", "Right Back On It", and "Three Sheets in the Wind", but none of them repeated the success of "Loaded".

"Pep" (as his fans called him) was no instrumentalist - though he does play guitar on some tracks - and he picked a young guitarist called Albert Collins to play with him on one of the albums he cut for Aladdin in 1956 after he moved to Los Angeles. *Houston Can't Be Heaven*, which was released in the UK on the Ace label in 1989.

The songs Peppermint Harris



Harris: 'I Got Loaded'

cut at that time are regarded by many as his best work. He also wrote lyrics for B.B. King and Etta James. His last album was *Texas On My Mind* (1995), which lacked much of the fire of his earlier work.

KARL DALLAS

Harrison D. Nelson (Peppermint Harris), singer, guitarist; born Texarkana, Texas 17 July 1925; married (one daughter); died 19 March 1999.

Whose idea was that?

The Millennium Dome is to exhibit inventions that reflect man's greatness. Wrong! It should contain things that reflect human nature. By Andrew Mueller

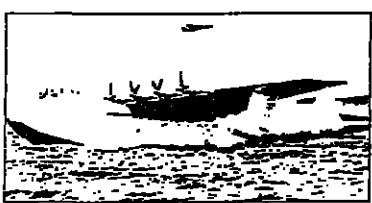
In keeping with all the things to which the Millennium Dome is a monument, part of the permanent exhibition is to be devoted to mankind's most enduring and useful inventions. This was probably inevitable, but is no less depressing for that. Humanity will never accurately be represented solely by things that signify success: to characterise the progress of humanity over the ages, the Dome should also be looking to celebrate our failures, misconceptions and blunders. They are what make us what we are.

When we utter that eternal, magnificent, affirming truth "I'm only human", either to ourselves or to others, it is not when we've just collected an Oscar, split the atom or run 70 yards through the Arsenal defence and beaten David Seaman with a rising drive into the roof of the net.

They are the words we reserve for the moments when we realise that we didn't put film in the camera, as we contemplate the blackened wreckage of our chemistry sets from behind shattered spectacles, as our enraged teammates pelt us with fistfuls of mud after we've sliced an opponent's cross into our own goal.

If the Millennium Dome's curators refuse to acknowledge - let alone celebrate - such moments as these, they are guilty of no less a crime than betraying us to posterity. With that dreadful responsibility in mind, they may wish to consider the following inventions for inclusion:

The Spruce Goose



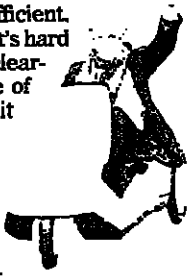
A grand emblem of man's vainglorious, age-old determination to give himself wings. The pride and joy of billionaire recluse Howard Hughes, this immense and ridiculous wooden-framed aircraft - some 75m long and possessing a 100m wingspan - began and ended its aviation log with a flight of 70 feet on 2 November, 1947.

Today, the most interesting thing about it remains the fact that, despite its name, it wasn't made from spruce (few indeed, are the clumsy, ungainly birds whose name rhymes handily with birch).

Undeterred by the worldwide hoots of derision that greeted this folly, Hughes went on to develop a customised cantilevered bra for the use of Jayne Mansfield, who never wore it, or him.

Sinclair C5

Undignified, inefficient, patently absurd, it's hard to see, with the clear-eyed perspective of hindsight, how it could possibly have seemed like a good idea at the time to anyone - the automotive equivalent of Sir James Goldsmith's political career.



Quadrophonics

This transparent early Seventies effort to prise open the wallets of hi-fi bores and sundry audio gear transmitters deservedly went the way of the eight-track cartridge, mostly because it was obvious that the whole thing was little more than a ghastly conspiracy to get us all to buy our record collections all over again. Though that didn't stop it working when they tried the same stunt with the compact disc.

Betamax video



The tapes were smaller, and we kept reading that the picture was better. Unfortunately, none of us could really tell the difference and all we knew was that the VHS section at the local Blockbuster was larger and noticeably less populated by people who looked like

they worked in television. Which were two impeccable reasons for heaving the poor Beta machine into the nearest skip and accepting the inevitable.

Dog Bomb

The field of human conflict has regularly yielded a bountiful harvest of idiosyncrasy, but the research boffins of the Soviet Union staked an unarguable claim on immortality with the dog bomb. The idea was as brutal as it was simple - stray dogs would be trained to associate food with the underside of tanks, and then loosed upon the battlefield with enormous armour piercing mines strapped to their backs.

Regrettably, the geniuses responsible for this plan neglected to consider that the Russian tanks with which the dogs were trained looked rather different from the German Panzers they were supposed to attack. When eventually sent into battle, the high-explosive hounds turned for home, forced an entire Soviet division into retreat, and the plan was abandoned.

Milk Carton

Will one day be regarded in much the same way that trench warfare. Noel's House Party and Conservative governments are now - with a horrified incomprehension that people were ever willing to put up with such ineptitude and humiliation. We can put men on the moon and grow ears on the backs of hairless mice - how hard can it be to make a receptacle for milk which allows its contents to be transferred into a coffee cup without going up your sleeve?

Over-the-shoulder keyboard

Didn't sound any different from a normal keyboard, but certainly looked a lot sillier. Was for some reason regarded as an essential item by Eighties pop groups.

When one considers the other things that Eighties

pop groups thought essential - big shirts, beauty spots, leather overcoats, mullet haircuts, cocaine and pretending to know who Baudrillard was - it's perhaps not surprising we see so little of the over-the-shoulder keyboard these days.

Video telephone

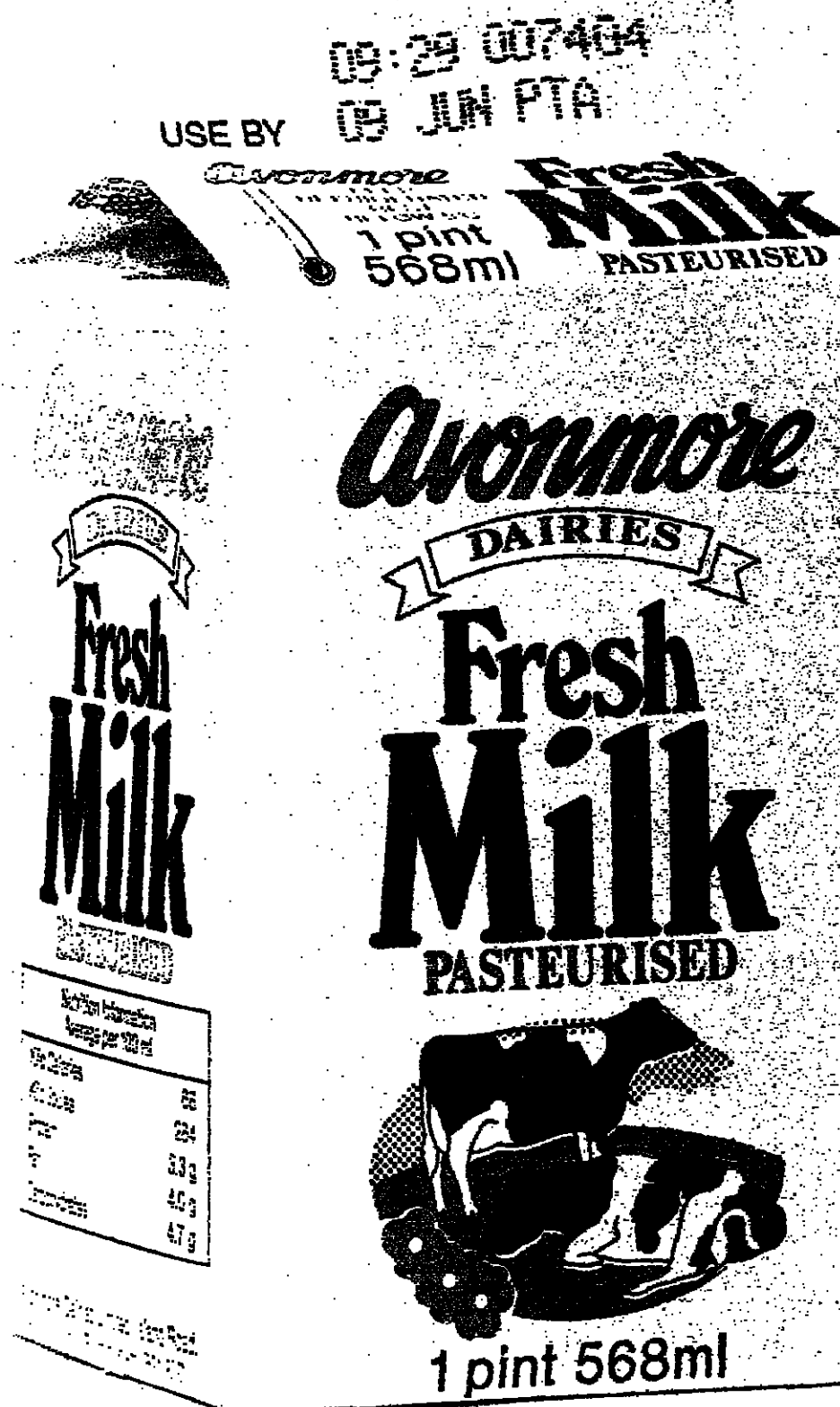
Had appeared through decades of science fiction as a harbinger of a technologically advanced age, yet when it started to become commercially available, absolutely nobody wanted it. In a rare fit of collective sanity, we realised that the principle joy of the telephone is that it frees us to talk to someone without their being able to see us yawning, watching television, pulling faces and picking our noses.

Decoy toilet flusher

A development - and possibly even a sign of the terminal decline into decadence - of the Japanese, a people as fastidious as they are restlessly inventive. The device is a control box mounted upon the bowl of a toilet in a public restroom, which allows the occupant to manufacture artificial swirls and splashes to save other patrons of the convenience the distress of having to listen to any swirls and splashes they may be making themselves.

Synchronised Swimming

Nobody likes it. And people who say they do are lying.



You ask the questions

(Such as: Kenneth Clarke, how do you feel about being described by one of your colleagues as 'a podgy life-insurance salesman'?)

Kenneth Clarke was born in 1940, in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire. He began his working life as a barrister, becoming a QC in 1980. He became active in politics while at Cambridge University, and was president of the Cambridge Union. In 1985 he joined the Cabinet as Paymaster General and Minister for Employment. Between 1987 and 1993 he was Secretary of State for Health. Secretary of State for Education and Science, and Home Secretary. From May 1993 until the general election in 1997 he was Chancellor of the Exchequer. He is MP for Rushcliffe, and is married with two children.

When did you decide to become a politician?
Claire Millar, Southend-on-Sea, Essex
I decided that I wanted to become an MP when I was quite a small boy in primary school. I have no idea, really, why I developed this early childish enthusiasm. I think it was because I was already an avid reader of the newspapers and I enjoyed following the political debate. I am afraid that I have long ago lost the scrapbook that I kept of the 1950 election.

You have a love of birds. If you could be a bird, which would you be and why?
Karl Havers, Guildford, Surrey
I am a very keen birdwatcher. For some peculiar reason, whenever I am asked to name my favourite bird I usually name the bar-tailed godwit. I would not remotely wish to share its life, standing knee-deep in frozen water for a high proportion of the time.

Aside from your political differences, what do you think of William Hague on a personal level?
Janet O'Neill, Ipswich, Suffolk
I have always had an excellent personal relationship with William

Hague, who I think leads a private lifestyle very similar to my own. It is a pity that there is so much press attention being paid to the cultivation of a public image of the ordinary guy who likes to relax and enjoy a pint of beer. In fact, I think that is his genuine personality.

Has the centre of gravity permanently shifted to the right in William Hague's party?
John Vincent, Reigate, Surrey
The Conservative Party is being led from the right again as it was, to some extent, when Margaret Thatcher led it.

Mrs Thatcher relied very heavily on Willie Whitelaw and successfully maintained a very balanced team which represented every strand of opinion within the Conservative Party. There were more "wets" than "dries" in her Cabinet in 1990, just as there had been in 1979. I believe that William is striving to keep the same sense of balance inside the party.

What did you think of the "devil's eyes" advertising campaign run during the last election? Is advertising playing too great a role in politics?
Philip Mynors, Wallingford, Oxfordshire

I must admit that I went along with the "devil's eyes" campaign, but regretted it eventually. There have been key political posters which have swung votes in the past - I particularly remember "Labour is not working" in 1979.

I think the advertising at the last election was a waste of millions of pounds by both parties. Ours became rather unpleasant and the Labour Party's was vapid and unmemorable.

I am rather tempted by the idea that there should be a cap on the amount spent by each political party on posters and hoardings.

Do you believe that the euro can be properly managed without accountable democratic control by a parliament scrutinising a central authority, such as our



Chancellor of the Exchequer?

JM Mackay, Biggar, Lanarkshire
Yes. Monetary policy in the United Kingdom is no longer the responsibility of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and is the independent responsibility of the Governor of the Bank of England. In most devel-

oped countries where there is an independent central bank, the central bank governor is not under the control of government and parliament in any way but does, of course, have to defend his decisions publicly. Our Governor makes regular appearances before the Treas-

ury Select Committee of the House of Commons. The European Central Bank has got to find some equivalent way of making itself accountable to the outside world, and I see no reason why members of the Central Bank Board should not explain themselves to members of the European Parliament or to members of national parliaments.

How long do you really think it will be before the Conservatives are elected to govern the country?
Simon Bishop, Tunbridge Wells, Kent

I think the Blair Government is an extremely shallow and lightweight administration and I see no reason why it should not be replaced at the next election. Whether the Conservative Party succeeds in being re-elected in 2002 will depend on our success in developing policies and attitudes towards the economy and the public services, and on presenting a credible and attractive impression to the public at large as a potential government.

Alan Clark described you as a "podgy life-insurance salesman". How do you feel about that?
Patricia McMillan, Isle of Wight
Alan actually described me as a "podgy life-insurance risk". It was probably one of the more accurate statements that he has ever made. I do not share Alan's hypochondria and fitness-freak enthusiasms!

Do you eat British beef and genetically modified food?
Charles Crombie, Alton, Hampshire

Yes. I think people are becoming ever more neurotic in their aversion to risk. I have seen no evidence to suggest that British beef or the GM foods already on sale pose any degree of risk which is out of line with the countless risks that we run every day in our modern lives.

I have taken part in motor racing in the past. If I am allowed to choose to do that, I cannot understand why I am not allowed by the Government to choose to eat a

T-bone steak. I regard these decisions as my personal responsibility as an adult.

Do you agree that much of Tony Blair's success today is due to successful public relations? How do you think William Hague should combat this?

David Waugh, Shelford, Nottinghamshire
I think most of Tony Blair's success today is due to his personal success in presenting himself, which obscures his irritating vagueness and lack of clear principle. I think William should seek to develop his political ideas and project himself as a substantial political figure and statesman, in contrast.

You recently grew a beard. Do you think William Hague's popularity would increase if he followed your example?
Keith Fleet, Tottenham, London
No. I would only advise William to grow a beard if he were to find himself with no hot water to shave in for two weeks, which was my only motive.

Dexter Gordon, John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins, Zoot Sims, Booker Ervin, Ben Webster, John Gilmore, Coleman Hawkins - which tenor player do you most deeply identify with? And why?
TC Coleman, Stoke Newington, London

I congratulate the questioner on a selection of absolutely brilliant tenor saxophonists. It is almost a complete set of the finest players of the instrument in jazz music. I fear that I do not identify with the lifestyle of any one of them, as they are a collection of fairly eccentric people with some deep personal problems and tragedies.

Sonny Rollins is the best improviser I have ever heard. Dexter Gordon is the most larger-than-life personality of the whole lot, and John Coltrane is the finest and most influential musician of the collection. I find myself listening to younger tenor players who all try to imitate him.

A life less ordinary

Continued from page 1
asked if he wanted a cup of tea, he boldly replied 'obviously'.

By the spring of 1973 he was at the remote Murgwanza Hospital in Ngara. He worked from time to time in the operating theatre. According to Mandelson, there was a large cylinder of ether which, on occasion, he was asked to oversee, pumping every 15 seconds or so to keep the anaesthetic topped up. But he also had other things on his mind. In a four-page, single-spaced typewritten letter to Steve Howell he wrote that "sometimes... I feel that I... am retaining the force and commitment of my YCL-bred attitudes and beliefs but am just not having the opportunity to expound on them. And other times I feel that my revolutionary ardour is fading because I am a bourgeois at heart."

After a long disquisition on the rival claims of revolutionary socialism and Christianity he admitted that "being a sinful old non-conformist, it's more than a little hard to think of oneself as a Christian... at times I have felt that I am losing a socialist grip of myself... and then I wonder whether in fact I am just trying to close my eyes to a too-harsh and apparently insoluble reality and merely fall back into my cosy, bourgeois existence and assured future. Don't let this frankness go beyond your eyes."

Even allowing for the pretensions of youth, and the fact that Mandelson was probably trying to announce and justify his disengagement from the YCL to Howell, his letters home from Tanzania call into question assumptions that his political drive was exclusively careerist in origin. His letters from Tanzania convey a sense of a young man wrestling with the choice between social democracy and its left-wing alternatives. And by confronting the dilemma earlier than many of those who are now his fellow-ministers, he may also have been helped to resolve it earlier, so that by the time he first became embroiled in party politics five years later he was in no doubt that he stood on the social democratic right of the party.

TOMORROW THE KINNOCK YEARS



Mandelson, the Biography is published by HarperCollins at £19.99. Independent readers can buy it at the special price of £14.99 (inc p&p), by phoning 0870 900 2050 and quoting "Department 8231".

Chris Bailey, the man who created Jigsaw Menswear, is doing away with this successful high-street name and launching a brand-new label in its place. Can he cut it with the boys about town? Undoubtedly, says Rebecca Lowthorpe



Above, left to right: Uth redefines the Jigsaw look; The Edge collection is a sporty, streetwise diffusion line; the Bailey line utilises luxury fabrics for limited edition pieces. Below: the serene Chris Bailey Kalpesh Lothigra

Puzzled? You'll soon work it out

Over the next six months you will notice the Jigsaw Menswear label steadily disappearing from a high street near you. Shop fronts, labels, bags and all other forms of the brand's identity will be scrubbed out. In its place will be Uth (pronounced "youth") and the tag line "It's a mind thing".

"I wanted to give the label its own strong international identity, by giving the image a more upmarket feel, but without making it any more expensive," says Chris Bailey, owner of the former Jigsaw Menswear. Given that we're talking about a brand that has high-street clout, and has turned into a resounding success (with a £15m turnover for 1998), isn't it taking quite a risk to relaunch Jigsaw Menswear under a different label?

"We've got to convince our loyal customers that nothing has changed apart from the name, which is why we have set up the slow, teaser campaign with the Uth stickers taped over the Jigsaw logo," explains Chris Bailey.

Why should the man who is credited with changing the face of menswear on the British high street worry about shaking up the rules all over again? After all, it was Bailey who launched Jigsaw Menswear in 1994 when there was little choice between the bland Italian imitations at Mr Byrite and the expensive, real McCoy Italian designers such as Armani and Cerruti. It wasn't just the clothes that were fresh and exciting: the stores were young and hip, belting out up-tempo house music, while the advertising campaigns rammed the novel message home with provocative images of young men with attitude, shot by internationally acclaimed and, more important still, "of-the-moment" photographers - David Sims, Juergen Teller and Terry Richardson.

Bailey saw the gap in the middle of the market and moved in, rescuing men up and down the country from the dull and the overpriced in one fell swoop and rejuvenating the menswear market to boot.

Over an early morning cappuccino, Bailey explains: "I knew there were other men out

there like me who couldn't afford a £1,000 suit, but wanted an individual look." The man sitting in front of me certainly has an individual look. Bailey is quite the snappy dresser, in a low-key combination of Prada and Helmut Lang, but somehow he doesn't look as if he belongs to the fashion world.

"They [the press] always say I look like a bouncer, so people assume I'm this hard nutter who's always looking for a punch-up. The thing is," he says, looking the picture of sincerity, as he strokes the heavy

sign director of Jigsaw Womenswear. And the fact that he is trying to master yoga suggests a man who is interested in pursuing calm and serenity.

Here is someone who has come up from the bottom in a tough business. Bailey, one of five children of a sample machinist mother and a builder father, grew up on a Tottenham housing estate. At 16 he left school and went to the local technical college to study fashion. "I couldn't stay because I couldn't afford the fees," he says. So, at 17, he left to work

It wasn't until last year that Bailey bought Jigsaw Menswear from John Robinson, his mate and business partner (who retained a 25 per cent equity stake). Up until then he had been steering the menswear as the director of design and the man in charge of production, but now that he's at the helm (with Robinson's full backing), he's ready to put his big ideas into action.

He has already expanded the clothes with two smaller lines. The first, Bailey, is the more up-market, with luxury fabrics; many of the clothes are limited editions of, say, just 50 of a certain jacket. The second is The Edge, which drills through Bailey's streetwise message, with hi-tech fabrics, anoraks and skintight cropped pants - you get the picture.

Bailey wants to take his vision of cool, urban sportswear to Milan where, he reckons, "the kids are screaming for a bit of affordable high-fashion kit and dying for shops with a looser atmosphere where the music is cranked up".

Japan will also be targeted, along with New York where he would like to show Uth on the catwalk. And in the UK, shops will shortly open in High Street Kensington, in west London; in Edinburgh (in an old bank which will be transformed into a Uth club complete with bar; and in Birmingham.

"I've worked from the bottom up. I know everything there is to know about the construction of a garment and I know my accounts and balance sheets," he says sagely.

But how, I wonder, does he keep his finger firmly on the pulse of fashion?

"Well, I wouldn't get any ideas if I just sat at home watching Coronation Street. I go out all the time. All the hotspots - Shoreditch, Notting Hill, Soho - and people-watch. I'm fascinated in how people put themselves together," says Bailey, who, you can tell, doesn't take his mind off the business for a millisecond. Inspired by kill-dad Scotsmen at a wedding, he pulled off a particularly successful coup last season, when his shops sold 500 plain grey and black kilts to men.

Bailey's ability to pounce on an idea and exploit it means that Uth is out in front of his high-street competitors. Get down there and see for yourself.



'I wouldn't get any ideas if I sat at home watching Coronation Street. I go out to the hotspots and people-watch'

silver chain around his neck. "I'm not at all like that."

Bailey is, in fact, a 40-year-old big bloke with a shaven head who is not afraid to speak his mind, and that's where the similarity to the proverbial bouncer ends. Far from his aggressive image, he comes across as a sensitive gent when I ask him about his home life. He talks with pride about his three little girls, Grace, Liberty and Eve, and his wife Ros (de-

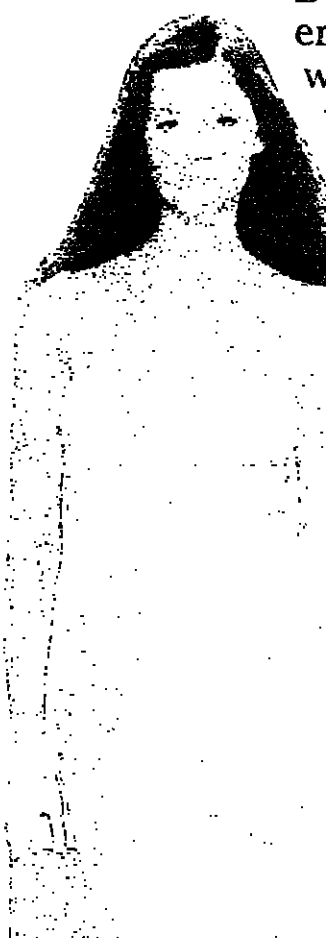
in the rag trade as a pattern-cutter on £20 a week. "I've still got the calluses on my hands to prove it.")

His career took a great leap forward when, at 24, he set up the production for Jigsaw Womenswear with John Robinson, who founded Jigsaw 25 years ago. And at 27 Bailey bought the first of two factories, which enabled Jigsaw to make its own exclusive designs and respond quickly to consumer demand.

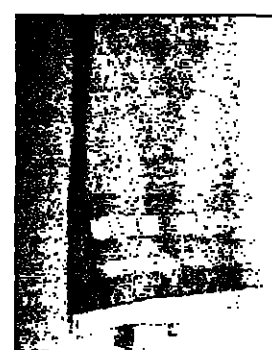
COMPETITION

Wrap yourself in luxury and get the chance to WIN an exclusive designer outfit

Designer labels come with designer prices, but by entering the Comfort Silk competition you could win an outfit worth up to £1,000 from some of the hottest names in contemporary fashion available at Harrods



A woman who buys designer clothes is someone who believes in luxury. Designer clothing is all about details, refined contours, luxurious fabrics and all those careful finishing touches that make designer clothes special. Clothes like these need looking after - they might be an indulgence, but they are also an investment and so need to look good time after time. Even if your wardrobe isn't packed with designer labels, you still want the best out of your clothes. So whatever your budget, it pays to take proper care of what you wear. Comfort Silk is the



last word in luxurious fabric conditioner and will give cherished clothes a rich, silky softness and delicate fragrance. View the latest designer looks and get style and fabric-care advice at the Comfort Silk Designer Collection, a showcase for

the latest designer clothes from Harrods at the Cosmopolitan Show, which runs from 29 April to 5 May. Comfort Silk will present outfits by top designers such as Tracy Boyd, DKNY, Calvin Klein, Joseph, Elspeth Gilson and Strenesse.

Enter the competition and you could visit the show, and win a designer outfit worth up to £1,000.



COMPETITION

How you could be designer dressing

Enter the Comfort Silk competition and you could be the lucky winner of a pair of tickets to experience the Comfort Silk Designer Collection at the Cosmopolitan Show, PLUS a visit to the Contemporary Designer Department at Harrods where you can pick out a designer outfit for yourself worth up to £1,000. You will also receive a case of Comfort Silk fabric conditioner to keep the new clothes looking good. Just answer the questions below and put your answers along with your name, address and daytime telephone number on a postcard by 26th April and send it to Comfort Silk Independent Competition, London SE9 7YA.

Questions

1. Name two benefits of using Comfort Silk fabric conditioner in your wash.
2. Which supermarket famously fell over on the catwalk when wearing platform shoes?
3. Name two contemporary designers whose clothes are available at Harrods.



1849-1999 Celebrating 150 Years

1. The prize is as stated; there is no cash alternative. 2. The winner will be the first entry drawn after 26 April 1999. 3. The winner will be notified by post after 26 April 1999. 4. The competition is not open to employees of Lever Brothers, The Independent, Harrods or employees of any marketing agencies connected with this competition. 5. No correspondence will be entered into. 6. No responsibility will be accepted for entries damaged, lost or mislaid, stolen or not delivered. Any postcard not delivered after the closing date will not be entered. 7. Harrods Ltd ("Harrods") is unrelated to Lever Brothers Ltd and does not endorse or recommend its promotion. The promotion is managed, controlled and administered by Lever Brothers Ltd alone and correspondence concerning the promotion must be directed to Lever Brothers Ltd via the competition address and not Harrods. 8. Privacy: care for entries is 26th April 1999. The Editors' decision is final.

Multiples are the prêt-à-porter to the haute couture of the unique work of art. Now a new project intends making these popular and affordable objects more widely available. By Judith Palmer

Go forth and multiply

A special place in 20th-century British art history should surely be reserved for Sir Alec Guinness, Stanley Holloway and Sid James. Back in 1951 when *The Lavender Hill Mob* had the brainwave of smelting down their stolen gold bullion and disguising it as miniature replicas of the Eiffel Tower, they weren't just out-foxing Scotland Yard: the Ealing Studios comedy-team was creating the nation's first witty art multiples. It was another decade before the rest of the art-world finally caught up, with Claes Oldenburg, Joseph Beuys, Ian Hamilton Finlay and John Cage amongst the many hundreds of artists producing cheap editions of quirky, mass-produced objects. Piero Manzoni canned his Artist's Shit and Yoko Ono made her all-white travel chess sets. If original artworks were *haute couture*, the multiple was *prêt-à-porter*. You couldn't take the gift-wrapped Reichstag home with you: but 75 lucky people in 1968 spent a few quid on Christo's multiple *Empaquetage of Roses* and carried off a slender bundle of flowers tied up in a celophane shroud. A very canny investment now worth a few thousand.

Throughout the Nineties, few young British artists resisted the urge to go forth and multiply. Damien Hirst adopted the "ready-made" principle and packaged up ping-pong balls in high-ball glass tumblers, while Mark Wallinger made mini, die-cast equestrian statues to help offset the cost of buying his real chestnut racehorses. Sometimes you're buying a highly-crafted, cherishable item – sometimes a jokey bit of ephemeral tat. But where does one find these art souvenirs?

The newest addition to the multiple market is the Multiple Store, an independent research unit based within Central St Martin's College of Art & Design, which re-

cently launched with a collection of six new commissions in editions of 20 to 200, priced from £90 to £495, and from artists such as Cornelia Parker, Keith Coventry and Turner-Prize winner Grenville Davey.

"We thought there was a market for an organisation bringing artists to a new distribution network," explains Multiple Store director Sally Townsend. "We're like publishers really, and we'll keep adding to the collection throughout the year. We're trying to enable artists to explore ideas in materials they may not be familiar with, while bringing their work to a wider audience. Multiples, by their very nature, allow you to bring the price down and reach more people, yet you're still buying something pretty exclusive that won't be made again."

The collection goes on show this week both at Central St Martin's and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, and continues to tour nationally to non-gallery venues, as well as being available via the World Wide Web (www.multiplestore.org) and mail order.

"I find these opportunities quite fruitful," says the Scottish sculptor, Kenny Hunter. "Like public art projects, the Multiple Store commission has taken my work in directions it wouldn't otherwise have gone in. If you're designing everything for a white-cube gallery space, you might go round in tight circles. This helps to extend your range."

Hunter (who currently has a solo show of giant, toy-like figures at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery), has produced a pair of busts, as his multiple, depicting Monica Lewinsky and Saudi bomber- and pan-Islamist, Osama Bin Laden. A skit on the traditional iconic piano-top heads of Beethoven, Socrates, Burns and Lenin, the curvy, resin duo pose the question: "What is History?"

"The newspapers throw up a constant fresh stream of famous people like these for us to digest, all with a very short shelf-



Osama Bin Laden and Monica Lewinsky in "What is History?", a skit on the traditional iconic piano-top heads

life," explains Hunter. "They're good, wee bookends," he recommends. "Nice and heavy, they'd be good murder weapons."

Simon Periton usually makes whisperingly delicate paper cut-out dollies, but decided to make his multiple in glass. "Afterwards, I went glass bonkers for a bit," laughs Periton. "and spun off to make glass mushrooms and an 8ft floor dolly in enamel-painted glass." His multiple, *Barbiturate*, is a dainty, gently kinking strand of fragile, hand-twisted barbed wire in opaque lilac, black or white glass. "It enabled me to finally use an idea which had been sitting in my brain for years," he says.

Once he conceived the piece, the Multiple Store put him in touch with Bill Tuffnell and the London Glassblowing Workshop, to embark on the lengthy process of working out how to make the barbed wire. "It felt strange being so hands-off," Periton admits, "when normally I cut every piece myself in my studio. I wanted to make something simple, beautiful, useless and ornamental. The hazards associated with using barbed wire are now turned upon its owner, who's now got to take care of it."

"I did not want to make a knick-knack

or ornament," insists Graham Gussin, who has taken an Atlas of the Stars and pulped it to make a large disc, luminously pale and slightly speckled, which looks like a wonderful, inter-planetary Alka Seltzer. "This is designed to be hung up and out of the way, ideally 7ft above normal picture-hanging height. The idea was to take infinite, unmapable space, and condense it."

Several years ago, Cornelia Parker bought a Namibian iron meteorite, intending to launch it back into space. "It's an irregular, long and knobby rusty rock, a fragment of some spent star, and while it's still here on earth I thought I'd use it as a drawing implement," Parker laughs. Gripping it with tongs, she heats it up then burns careful holes across her London street atlas. First she takes out the Millennium Dome, then the Houses of Parliament, Wormwood Scrubs, Buckingham Palace, and St Paul's Cathedral, charring her way down through the pastel-tinted pages in her own rampaging Fire of London. "It's your own personalised meteorite fall," she says, "tying in with that doomsday, end-of-century fear of the unknown."

Scottish artists Dalziel and Scullion are seasoned multipliers. Treating the TV

like a budge's cage, they made a successful series of little sleeping hoods marked Rest to drape over your television at night (in handy 17-inch and portable 14-inch sizes). Their latest multiple is *The Idea of North*, a delightfully simple compass floating in a chunky disc of sandblasted perspex, as if caught in the middle of a glacier. The idea presented itself when their next-door neighbour called round in desperate need of a compass so he could line-up the arrow on his new weather vane.

"I love the idea of everyone around the country holding these compasses at a slightly different angle, but them all still pointing in the same direction, at the same imaginary place," muses Matthew Dalziel. "The more that are bought, the more the work grows. They all become connected, with people dotted around the place, all joined in the same idea. That for me is the essence of a multiple, rather than just an edition: something that becomes a bigger work because there's more of them. It's also a good compass," he adds. "It's Swedish. It could save your life." It makes a a fabulous paperweight, too, and just think how it could sort out all your feng shui needs.

"I think for people not used to buying art,

there's a great feeling of safety in numbers," considers Gill Hedley, director of the Contemporary Art Society – spoken as if a surge of collective Dalziel and Scullion compasses were already quivering in her hand. "Multiples are great," she says, pointing out her Tracy Emin Mug, Mariele Neudecker plaster mountain, and jars of Anya Gallaccio gerberas. "It's rather like buying prints – a way of getting your nerve up before committing yourself to buying something much bigger and more expensive. You couldn't usually afford works by a lot of these artists. In fact, you probably couldn't even get them in the front door."

Multiple Store at Lethaby Gallery, Central Saint Martin's College of Art & Design, Southampton Row, London until 30 April. Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield until 20 June (01924 830302)

There will be a special evening viewing for "Independent" readers at the Multiple Store on Wednesday 28 April 6-8pm, at which the artists will discuss their work. For free tickets, call 0171-514 7258

A vision of the victims of war

DEBORAH BRUCE's lovely, poetic revival of *Making Noise Quietly*, Robert Holman's 1986 triptych about lives touched and damaged by war, arrives in the West End at a tragically auspicious moment. With Nato and the Government intent on simplifying the Balkans conflict to a monolithic struggle between Good and Evil, we need the sanity of this play's scrupulous vision more than ever. A finely wrought moodpiece as much as a delicately nuanced moral meditation, *Making Noise Quietly* achieves its impact by examining war's long-range effects in seemingly incongruous atmospheres. The nearest we get to battle is in the sound of the Doodiebags that hammer down on the neighbouring Kentish fields in the first play, *Being Friends*, set

THEATRE
MAKING NOISE QUIETLY
WHITEHALL THEATRE
LONDON

in the hot summer of 1944. Haunting from a family with a long pacifist tradition, Holman is preoccupied by the problem of evil: does it exist in a form to which the only viable moral response is war? John Lloyd Fillingham's Oliver, a conscientious objector working on the land, is now struggling with his pacifist beliefs as he awkwardly reveals to a gangly, uninhibited, well-connected young artist (Peter Hanly) in a chance, pastorally idyllic encounter that is full of very homo-erotic subcurrents. What rocked his certainties was the spectacle, in the hospital where

he used to work, of a German soldier who appeared to have been brutally tortured. The fact that Oliver's pacifism is jolted by an atrocity so close to home is characteristic of a triptych that declines to see things in black-and-white terms.

Given a haunting continuity here by having the excellent actors double roles, by silhouetted costume changes and by the dreamily unresolved incidental music, the three pieces have a powerful cumulative effect. The most clear-cut, perhaps, is the second, set during the Falklands War, in which an ordinary Cleveland housewife (Eleanor Bron) fights to cope with the news that her snobbish, long-stranded son has (a) perished on HMS *Glamorgan* and (b) married behind their backs into a top naval family.



John Lloyd Fillingham and Peter Hanly Geraint Lewis

The play is a subtle study of the social and emotional pressures that can turn an instinctive revulsion of war into a *dulce et*

with his eight-year-old stepson, comes into testing collision with a German businessman and Holocaust survivor in the most beautiful of the plays.

The opportunities for notes of false uplift are rife in this kind of story: a victim of the camps wages a determined battle to draw a little boy (the excellent Philip Dowling) out of his defiant mutism and to bring home to the stepfather – whose army-induced terror of his capacity for violence is superbly conveyed by Mr Lloyd Fillingham – that he is not evil incarnate. But thanks to a most movingly unsentimental performance from Ms Bron and to the writing's wonderful open-endedness, all the pitfalls are avoided.

PAUL TAYLOR

Box office: 0171-369 1735

Travels in mythical America

POP
TOM PETTY AND THE HEARTBREAKERS
SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE
LONDON

WITH TOM Waits, Bruce Springsteen and now Tom Petty back in the spotlight, this spring has witnessed the return of a trio of great American singer-songwriters. Like Waits, like Springsteen, Petty is a pop-classicist who has no interest in chasing the musical Zeitgeist. His new album *Echo* – his 10th with the Heartbreakers – name-checks Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller, and musically it's a comfortably familiar mélange of folk- and blues-inflected Americana. Hardly revolutionary, then, but Petty is a link to those halcyon days before Jeremy Clarkson and Michael Bolton gave AOR a bad name.

Tonight's gig was the first Petty and his band have played in the UK for seven years. With Mike Campbell (who wrote "The Boys of Summer" with Don Henley) and session legends Benmont Tench and Howie Epstein in the firing-line there was no doubting the line-up's credentials. Their heart-breaking days, however, are definitely behind them.

Petty, now 48, took the stage grinning. In his three-quarter length coat and pin-stripe trousers, he still looked dapper, and throughout his performance he sought eye contact with the front row. During "Breakdown" he was relaxed enough to sing with one hand in his pocket, and he

was clearly surprised at just how well the audience remembered his Seventies hits. When he placed a lit cigarette between the strings on the headstock of his Telecaster, everybody cheered. It was an anachronistic gesture that contextualised Petty as neatly as his Byrds harmonies, his vintage guitar collection and the economic melodies that he refined to virtually near perfection on his 1989 solo debut *Full Moon Fever*.

"I won't back down," a track from that album, provided the first sign-along of the evening. Petty led on acoustic guitar and Tench added a typically inventive organ figure. Elsewhere, much of the set – which included a number by John Mayall's Bluesbreakers – was heads-down, no-nonsense rock'n'roll. The Heartbreakers might best be described as a very good pub rock outfit, but if God had a local, they'd probably be the house band.

There's a neologism currently doing the rounds which describes the late Nineties, middle-aged male's fixation with more youthful pursuits: "adulescent". There's certainly an "adulescent" quality to Petty's boy-meets-girl, driving-around-with-the-roof-down snapshots. It's hard to absorb a gig such as this one without a nostalgic eye in the rear-view, but if you want a fast track to the days when you were born to run, Petty still fits the bill.

JAMES MCNAIR

A version of this review appeared in some editions of yesterday's paper

The old, old story of girl meets god

"MYSELF I shall adore," sings Semele with fabulous immodesty in the final act of Handel's wonderful opera. This is the apogee of her vanity, the moment of her undoing, and as ever, Handel elevates the frivolity to high art. The breath-taking self-regard of the coloratura is, in itself, like a mirror-image, dazzling echo effects tossing phrases back and forth as Semele is lost – quite literally – in self-admiration. Rosemary Joshua sang it with terrific charm and abandon in Robert Carsen's handsome staging (first seen at the Aix-en-Provence Festival in 1996). Her embellishments seemed to proliferate in direct accordance with her dizzying conceit. Glitter and be gay, gayer, gayer.

But is that all there is to Semele? Good-time girl with delusions of immortality sees

the error of her foolish ways and is reborn in the form of Bacchus, god of wine, to bring untold pleasure to all? Well, yes, that is about it. And yet we are charmed and touched by her plight. In a sense, we participate in her dreams, refusing to accept, as she does, that she is but a plaything of the gods. And in that, Carsen succeeds, as good productions do, in weighing the frivolity and the satire with a dash of wonder and compassion.

Semele's final moments, expiring on the royal mantle she truly believes is rightly hers, is strangely moving. Handel doesn't indulge her demise with a full-blown exit aria. Her accompanied recitative, albeit of hypnotic beauty, is but a footnote. And even that serial-adulterer Jupiter emerges with some dignity. For sure, he cruelly exploits Semele's gullibil-

OPERA
SEMELE
ENO COLISEUM
LONDON

ity, allowing her to believe that what is his is hers. Don't they all? But he does so openly. He offers her the world – at the close of act two she literally holds it in her hand – but she wants the moon and stars, too.

Actually, this is the kind of production Semele might have designed for herself. It's cool, it's chic, it's straight from the pages of *Vogue* magazine, circa Cecil Beaton's heyday. A kind of mythological high society. Patrick Kinnmonth's palatial set – a midnight-blue room with one mightily auspicious doorway, the portal to momentous events unfolding beyond – is impressively versatile. With a

click of Jupiter's fingers, myriad stars bring Arcadian night to its empty walls.

Carsen uses the overdressed formality of this exclusive and slightly surreal world of society weddings, royal encounters, and red carpets to great effect. At one and the same time, he deploys it to heighten his stage-blocking of the opera's many choruses, while mocking its absurdity.

So Semele, caught in the flash-bulbs of public attention on her wedding day, slips from the frame of one "photograph" to share her dilemma with us. And later, when news arrives that Jupiter – in the form of an eagle – has carried her off, the somewhat po-faced recitative is amusingly offset by the arrival of the daily papers, banner headlines proclaiming: "By Jove!", "Semele: I'm in Heaven!", "Where Eagles Dare".

The Olympian grandeur of the production sits well in the Coliseum, but the price we pay in this house is a lack of musical immediacy. Carsen's big gestures and the theatre's big acoustics do spread Handel about. Conductor Harry Bicket does his level best to keep him in focus, both in and out of the pit, but the choral counterpoint is seriously compromised, and even the strongest of the principals are to some extent diminished by the scale.

Rosemary Joshua has made the title role very much her own, delighting in the sensuousness and sheer naughtiness of her music ("Endless Pleasure" is delivered in a bath towel draped to slip conveniently from her naked form). John Mark Ainsley's Jupiter gives us the most contained and authoritative singing of

the evening. "Where'er you walk" blessed with exquisite embellishments. And the excellent Janis Kelly is a scene-stealing Iris – the Queen's put-upon attendant, armed with photographic evidence of Jove's infidelities and even maps of his whereabouts. The Queen – Juno (Susan Bickley) – is, well, The Queen. Coronet, spectacles, that handbag, and even the headscarf and wellies. No corpi, though.

While the champagne flows and flows, courtesy of Bacchus, in the closing moments, there's a delicious pay-off as she spots Jove yet again with his hands where they ought not to be. Freeze frame.

EDWARD SECKERSON

Box office: 0171 632 8300: "Semele" will be broadcast live simultaneously on BBC2 and Radio 3, 7pm, 15 May

The West End's new beginning

Middle England, middle-of-the-road and the wrong side of middle-aged: that's the prevailing image of West End theatre audiences. So when commercial producers transferred the subsidised theatre production of Mark Ravenhill's hit *Shopping and Fucking* on to Shaftesbury Avenue, rival managements shook their heads in disbelief. An Arts Council tour of a

"controversial" play is one thing, but a run in the heart of London's theatreland? In fact, it did sensational business and even extended its run. Successfully targeting new work at new audiences has been the holy grail for years so with productions like *East is East*, *Trainspotting* and *The Weir* proving that there's a younger, less traditional audience hungry for

non-conventional West End fare, maybe at last there's a viable alternative to star vehicles and polite plays with french windows and drinks trolleys. Leaping from subsidised theatre into London's commercial sector come producers Sonia Friedman and Dominic Dromgoole, filling the Ambassadors and Whitehall theatres with equally audacious programmes.



The 1952 incarnation of 'The Mousetrap' (left) and 'Shopping and Fucking': new young audiences are encouraging producers to drop traditional fare in favour of fresh talent



Topham/Geraint Lewis

Sonia Friedman left Out of Joint, the enormously successful new writing company she set up with Max Stafford-Clark, for one of the most exciting jobs in British theatre. Not only is she now commissioning, developing and co-programming a dizzying array of work in theatres across the country, she is also attempting to change the pattern of London's commercial theatre with the creation of the New Ambassadors Theatre.

For the last two years this venue has been home to the Royal Court but, as that organisation exits in preparation for its new Sloane Square theatre – the opening date of which remains worryingly uncertain – Friedman has ensured that this theatre will not return to its former hand-mouth existence of intermittent, respectable runs of respectable plays.

Friedman may not exactly be on a mission to chuck out the theatrical chintz but alongside her opening late-night slot of Michael Wynne's cult hit *Set Out*, performed by the hot fringe company Frantic Assembly, her first offering hardly fits the "safety-first" world view of your standard West End producer. *Holy Mothers* is a fierce comedy by the late Austrian playwright Werner Schwab. "It's not going to be to everybody's taste," says Friedman with a confident smile. "Some will call it vulgar, some offensive, some hysterical."

Her programme is as notable for its variety as for its bravery. Between now and 2000 you'll be seeing *Last Dance at Dum Dum*, by East is East's author Ayub-Khan Din; Mark Ravenhill's *Some Explicit Polaroids*; *Drummers*, Simon Bennett's debut; Shared Experience's production of *Jane Eyre*; and *Spoonface Steinberg* with Kathryn Hunter. Friedman's board at the Turnstiles Group must be happy; they've given her the go-ahead for a further six months, to include a long-awaited transfer for *Frozen*, by Bryony Lavery.

Friedman has achieved all this by her pragmatism. "The question has been about looking at the bottom line: what a theatre owner needs to make on an annual basis to make it worthwhile to keep this theatre open." Potentially profit-making musicals are out of the question because both the stage and the audience



'It won't be to all tastes. Some will call it vulgar, some offensive, some hysterical'

SONIA FRIEDMAN

capacity are far too small. (Friedman has, however, smartly reduced the seating from 350 to 410, to increase leg room.) The key has been the business of not budgeting for so-called "dark" weeks. As soon as a show can't clear enough profit to cover costs, it closes, leaving a theatre dark and losing money. "It quickly became clear that if you could have it open 52 weeks a year, you could spread the running costs."

Those costs are prohibitive for all but dead certs. Beyond production expenses, a commercial producer expects to pay the weekly rental on a theatre and what's called the "contra". This covers front-of-house staff, ushers, bar staff, stage door-man and at least four full-time permanent technical staff, plus lighting operator, sound operator and fireman. Friedman is trying to change all this. "We are just charging a fee which is 15-18 per cent of the capacity of the house." Everything else is profit that will go to the companies.

It's very important to her that the New Ambassadors is a West End theatre operating on Society of London Theatre contracts. Venues regularly producing strong work, such as the Lyric Hammersmith and the Almeida, are ineligible for the Olivier awards for the simple but absurd reason

that they operate on different contracts.

Friedman is in discussion with the technicians' union Ectec but although her proposed minimum staffing levels are lower than normal, the sheer turnover of productions and the fact that the theatre will open seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, should level the playing field. Actors will be paid above the (paltry) Equity West End minimum of £286 per week.

The other boon for individual companies is that all the work will be centrally marketed and publicised. Friedman's season brochure alone will be distributed to 250,000 theatregoers. That represents a drastic cost reduction for incoming companies. A planned-for London run also allows them to attract good casts – actors with families don't like touring unless they get payback in terms of being noticed, and a six-week London run means just that.

But though there will be some work from the middle-scale touring circuit, many of whom are desperate to play a venue like this, Friedman's focus is resolutely on new writing, not on star-casting. "It's about the work," she says, simply.

So will this operate as a subscription season? "No. I'm very against them. For the performers, knowing that the same people are sitting in the same seats for every show in a widely diverse season isn't good. We're targeting different audiences for each piece of work. The audience for *Holy Mothers* isn't going to be the same as will see *Jane Eyre*." She certainly doesn't want to get into the business of rejecting work because it doesn't fit the regular audience profile. "Do that, and you've lost your policy."

Friedman's aim is to blur the boundaries of so-called "mainstream" and "fringe". She's determined to affect the landscape. "I couldn't possibly do this work commercially without the support of the subsidised sector. We need each other very, very badly. The New Ambassadors will be part of the big picture. It will stop work like Frantic Assembly from being marginalised. This way, new plays and companies playing opposite The Ivy and next to *The Mousetrap* can be assessed alongside *Art* and *The Phantom of the Opera*."

DAVID BENEDICT

The words "Whitehall Theatre" make you think of vicars dropping their trousers and French maids hiding in cupboards. You do not think of delicate, complex and subtle playwriting by Chekhov, John Whiting or even Robert Holman. But one of several unexpected developments in the West End is the residency of Dominic Dromgoole's Oxford Stage Company in that big old 1930s barn of a theatre in which Ray Cooney was once king.

As a matter of fact, in the opening production, *Making Noise Quietly* by Robert Holman, trousers are dropped, but here it is an epiphanal moment between a Quaker conscientious objector and a homosexual novelist in a field in wartime Kent. Sitting shoulder-to-shoulder for one of the previews, the new and old-style West End audiences responded differently. Some of the traditionalists couldn't resist a little tut. "Is that really necessary?" muttered one lady, as if a flash of suspenders would have been more to her taste.

"It's, of course, a monster raving loony idea to put a play as exquisite and fine as Robert's in a place like that," says an unabashed Dominic Dromgoole. "But it's unspeakably refreshing, and it works like a dream in there." Dromgoole's reputation was consolidated by a thoroughly admirable decade at the Bush Theatre, during which time he launched the careers of writers including Jonathan Harvey, Sebastian Barry and Conor McPherson, as well as innumerable actors. From there he moved west, into the Old Vic with Peter Hall, with responsibility for new writing. One of his aims was to overturn "that awful mentality, which is partly the fault of the media, but also the timidity of the profession, which says that small plays can only be done in small theatres. That's infantile. It's hollocks."

Though the Old Vic season proved that in certain cases – though by no means all – he was right, the unforgiving logic of commerce forced them out into the cold. Dromgoole then took on the touring Oxford Stage Company. In order to raise the company's profile and keep his own standing high, he approached a number of West End managements with a view to



'I find it shocking how much money is going to waste in these regional companies'

DOMINIC DROMGOOLE

bringing the touring work into town.

Associated Capital Theatres (ACT), which owns nine West End houses, asked him to spell out his fantasy option. And then they gave it to him – the Whitehall, Oxford Stage Company gets the theatre rent-free, but pays running costs and marketing for six, six-week runs programmed and produced by Dromgoole. In return, they hope a vaguely disreputable theatre, host to Channel 5's *Jack Docherty Show* and little else for two years, will be transformed into a hot spot for quality drama.

"To do it as a financial risk would be a flagrant misuse of public funds, and a bit naughty as well," chuckles Dromgoole. In order to fulfil the company's existing touring obligation, while indulging in this metropolitan adventure, he "released" £450,000 from the budget and from the company's reserves. That represents some pretty hefty streamlining. "If you come from a 'poor theatre' background like I do, it's quite shocking to find how much money is going to waste in these regional companies," he says. "You can see where two people are being paid to do one person's work, and just cut right through it."

Dromgoole's own production of *Three Sisters*, on tour at the moment, will follow

Making Noise Quietly, and then he hopes to buy in another one or two productions before opening *A Penny for a Song*, a John Whiting play which he also directs. "I'd like to get a couple of new plays in as soon as possible, but it's a question of finding the right product," he says, hanging on to his old commitments while being at ease with the new jargon of commercial management. He readily admits to enjoying the "pleasantly hard-headed logic" of the West End. "The criteria for whether something will work or not are very blunt and easy. They want you to make enough money on it." He is securely buffered from the sharper edges of commerciality by ACT's remarkable deal, but the implication is that it's a relief to take a break from the need to satisfy the funding bodies' social, political and educational criteria.

The risk, at least financially, is more on the side of the management. But a dark theatre is the worst option for any theatrical management. They won't receive any rent for the next 40 weeks, but they won't pay any costs either so if the magic works, their gains will be manifold. Deborah Bruce, 39-year-old director of *Making Noise Quietly*, says the theatre's technical crew is the most helpful she has worked with as they are so delighted the theatre is showing serious drama again.

It's a pretty exciting opportunity for a young director like her as well. "A lot more people will come to see the work at the Whitehall than were prepared to come to, say, Chester," she points out archly. She has worked on the main stages of Chester Gateway and Theatre Ciywd, but never a theatre as large as the 660-seater Whitehall. She remains unfazed, and the transition seems seamless. But most significant is the conceptual leap to the West End which will change her outlook, and that of her contemporaries. For younger writers and designers as well as directors, the West End is now a possible option. Dominic Dromgoole's dream outcome is the breaking of new talent. "If Robert's play could settle in, that would make me blissful," he says. "If you can make a case for a fine play like that, the whole world is a better place."

CLARE BAYLEY

ON THE FRINGE

INNER CITY JAM THE COCKPIT ■ THE IGNORAMUS AND THE MANIAC THE WHITE BEAR ■ ANNIVERSARY SWEET THE FINBOROUGH

INNER CITY Jam starts with a spine-jolting smash of corrugated iron. This is the wake-up call to a musical jumping and humping with vitality, which plunges the audience into a King's Cross estate and takes it through the stories of drug addicts, prostitutes, underage mothers and lunatics. No one falls in love, no one realises their dream, and there are no inhuman, all-redeeming messages. In short, this is not a musical with saccharine in its soul. Although the production renounces glitter, it has several stars in its cast. Danny Edwards sings more naturally than he breathes, and lifts round the stage squeezing stylish camp out of every cell in his body. As

a sex-video producer, singing, "It's not hard at all, just get a hard-on and keep it hard", he is accompanied by the elastic dancing skills of Paul Sharma, who turns the movement of limbs into a seamless magic. Juliet Roberts, playing the maternal Joy, has worked with Miles Davis and Stevie Wonder, and in her theatrical debut charges her songs with such energy that she gets repeated standing ovations. As the only religious voice in a musical powered by lines such as: "What are summer nights made of? Too much heat, and shit on the street", and "What's pink and hard? A pig with a flick-knife", she does well to stand out in a show

characterised by secular sardonicisms, grit, and hard-core delivery. The largely black, working-class audience, cheering at every anti-establishment gesture, would probably have less time for *The Ignoramus and the Maniac*, and its middle-class preoccupations with opera, fine wines, and the relationship between a gifted daughter and her over-ambitious father. This would be until it noticed the subversive, fascinating dissection of how humans try to control the world through their obsessions: a doctor reduces all human beings to a series of anatomical lists; an alcoholic father is

emotionally dependent on his daughter's career as an opera-singer; and she lives to crack the suffocating shell created half by her father, half by her talent. The Austrian playwright Thomas Bernhard (who died in 1989), has created a surreal dialogue in which the three main characters' individual obsessions mean that they cannot talk properly to each other. Like parallel lines, their ideas about opera-singing run together smoothly side by side, but never meet. Dale Rapley, as the doctor, talks in arrogantly comic streams of anatomical jargon – such as: "A lobulated liver has scar-like crevasses, my friend." His delivery is so sharp, he could make a

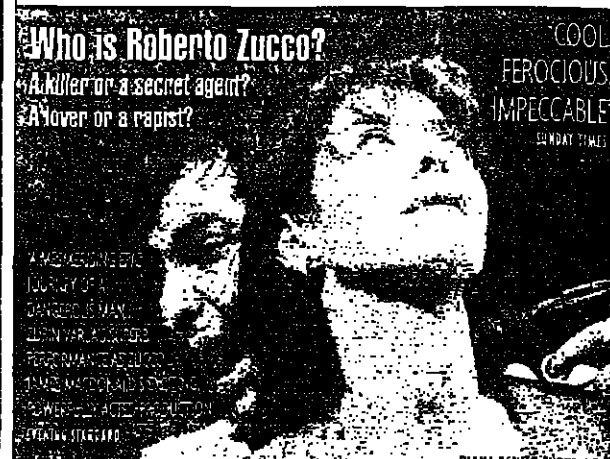
telephone directory sound like an interesting philosophy, while Lucy Stevens, debating the emotional quandary of how to escape the role of perfect performer, reveals a powerful voice and a poised delivery that underpin Matthias Janser's stylish, self-possessed production. The on-stage mirror encapsulates the conflict between objective perception and emotional identity in the opera-singer's voice, but no such symbolism could be inferred from the set of *Anniversary Sweet*, which simply mirrors the existence of twenty-somethings – a twilight zone between college and civilisation. Andrew Muir's first play

deals with a man who takes revenge on flatmates after they force him out for motives based on drugs, sex, and ambition. The production starts off patchy, but the dialogue is funky and fun, and the denouement surprisingly powerful. Carola Stewart, all Chanel and enhanced teeth, is a great upper-class mother. But the real star is Andrew Muir, whose sense of structure and conversation make him a writer to watch. RACHEL HALLIBURTON

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The naked truth

I WORK FOR...

CHERYL SUMMERS IS PA TO EILEEN MEADMORE, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES



Cheryl Summers: 'Our switchboard has been jammed with enquiries for the new calendar, featuring nude WI members from North Yorkshire' Tom Craig

I was only 21 when I started work here and, like many, had an unfortunate "jam-and-Jerusalem" image of the Women's Institute, so it was quite a revelation to see what really goes on. Obviously, the members of the WI are famous for their jam-making and they do sing "Jerusalem" before their meetings, but there is so much more to our organisation than that. I had also assumed that membership just involved meeting up once a month, so I was quite shocked by how much the members do.

I've now been here nine years and some of my colleagues have been here for 30. I think there's something about the WI that appeals to professional and dedicated people. Of course, as a modern-minded organisation, we are changing all the time and are conscious of the need to be able to implement new ideas. For example, our switchboard has been jammed with enquiries over the new calendar, featuring nude WI members from a North Yorkshire Institute, and the shop

which sells the calendar received so many calls that its phone line went dead. The response has been fantastic and has challenged the stereotype of the older WI member, for it shows the sense of humour many of us share. Eileen Meadmore was very supportive, as am I. Mind you, I don't think I would have had the guts to pose myself.

We want people to realise that there is so much more to us than meets the eye. Yes, there are cake-decorating courses but there are also a lot of members who want to participate in matters of international importance. We aren't merely interested in women's issues; anything involving the community, children and family concerns us. For example, we are involved in issues such as better screening for breast cancer, and the environment. We also have Denmore, our own residential college, where members can take courses in almost anything, including car maintenance.

I think my job has changed a lot over the years. I took over as head of secretariat in April 1997, having

moved through many departments, including the member services department and the finance department. However, I had always wanted this job because I enjoy being in contact with everyone and I didn't really have a head for figures. I like the challenge of organising, working out procedures and making sure that everything runs smoothly. Generally there are good communication links

I would never be embarrassed to say that I work for the Women's Institute

between us all; very rarely do I have to chase any of my 30 colleagues, four of whom are men. I receive many phone queries from any one of our 252,000 members on a wide range of subjects. If someone asks me who opened the first WI meeting in England, I will enjoy researching

the subject; it's fascinating to get a picture of life so many years ago.

Eileen actually lives in West Yorkshire, so I don't see a lot of her. When she is here, her time is precious, but I keep in telephone contact with her, which seems to work well. We have a good working relationship and I enjoy using my own initiative. She spends a lot of time travelling and speaking to members on subjects of their choice. Among the most popular is her account of her trip to Buckingham Palace to present a WI centenary silver medal to the Queen and the Queen Mother, both members of the Sandringham WI.

Eileen is very approachable, positive and upbeat. Of course, it is sometimes disheartening when we get bad press, but one of our policies is to try and see the best in everything. As chairman, Eileen is a WI member herself and goes to all her local meetings, so she is well placed to implement both the executive committee's policies and the members' points of view. I, however, have never been to a WI meeting because - in common with most of

the staff - I am not a member. The feeling is that since we are working on implementing policies, it might compromise us to have the interests of a local group in mind. But staff tend to join their local WI after they leave, reflecting the fact that many women become members on retirement, when they are looking for something more in life. Mind you, our youngest member is just 12.

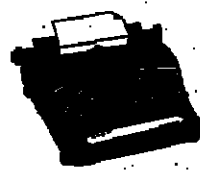
I would never be embarrassed to say that I work for the WI. I think they are pillars of the community and my biggest high is the annual general meeting. To see as many as 10,000 like-minded people together is fabulous, and then to hear them sing "Jerusalem" makes the hairs stand up on the back of my neck.

I've just got back from maternity leave and have had brilliant support from my colleagues, partly because - as a women's organisation - they understand the pressures.

The years have just flown by; in fact it wasn't until this interview that I realised how long I have been here.

INTERVIEW BY
KATIE SAMPSON

By e-mail, the dreadful truth



THE TEMP

HANNAH SEEMS to be over her fluey thing, and Doug seems to be persona grata again. I think that last week's expression of concern was followed up with a visit and some expressions in person. So though when Love Went Wrong, Nothing Went Right last week, it's a case of Love is the Drug this. Honestly, you'd have thought that two people in their thirties would have got used to endorphin highs by now, but these two seem to be permanently stoned now they're back on speakers. Hannah's gone from big-shouldered business suits to floaty summer dresses. She would probably die of hypothermia at the bus stop if she didn't have her luvvie to keep her warm. Doug, too, has softened up his style: his hair, which was in a Beckham quiff last week, has turned Hugh Grant this, flopping into his eyes in a fashion that makes you want to get out a stapler and fix it firmly to his scalp.

The thing is, though they are undoubtedly nicer to be around - well, no one likes to be with people whose primary means of communication is bellowing - the resurgence of this love affair doesn't make life easier for me.

I'll be telling Hannah about where things stand on my attempts to set up a meeting with the national sales team or whatever, and I'll realise that she's drifted off into hyperspace. And if I glance across the floor, I'll realise that Doug is walking over to the coffee machine. So I'll stop talking and go back to shuffling bits of paper until Doug has got his caffeine fix and disappeared back round the corner. Then Hannah will heave a sigh and go, "Sorry. Where were we?" and I'll try to rush through the information before he decides he needs to take a photocopy.

The thing is, despite the tantrums, the loving looks, the long lunches, the two of them obviously think they are conducting their affair in the utmost secrecy. They seem to believe that, as long as they don't actually wrap themselves round each other and start humping over the reception desk, no one is going to be any the wiser. Which is a laugh, because the whole thing is the subject of fevered office gossip. There's even a file in the computer system called "Hand", which I presume is an

amalgamation of their two names. It's an open file - anyone can access it - and contains a log of the whole thing. Things they've said about each other, things they've said to each other, a mysterious log of the times and dates when the Disabled loo (capacious, sound-proofed and never needed by disabled people - as in most offices, we don't have any) has been in use for more than 20 minutes at a time - oh, you naughty hackers - a record of every e-mail they've ever sent each other.

"Bit miserable today. Couldn't help thinking about what you said last night. Did you really mean it?" "I keep telling you, you MUST TRUST ME." "Where dinner tonight?" "You know what I really fancy? Going back to yours and getting out the whipped cream!" "Don't you dare ever, ever mention your ex-wife again in front of me. I'm not your agony aunt." "Hannah, can you remember where I left the massage oil? I can't find it anywhere." "D. Feeling squeaky. Can you spare 20 mins? See you in your-know-where." "Bloody Pearson wants that report turned round by tomorrow morning. Sorry, darling. Promise I'll make it up to you on Friday."

"Squidgybum." "Big boy." And at the bottom, just above this week's rash of "I love you so so much", there's a series that makes my stomach leap. "Your temp? Don't be absurd." "Yes you do. I saw you looking at her." "Was looking to see if you were in." "Lying BASTARD." "What on earth would I want with a temp when I've got a real woman?" "You want some soppy little slag who'll do anything you ask." "You're being silly. I probably got an IQ of 10." "You're right there. She took 10 minutes to work out how to switch the computer on when she arrived." "And anyway, have you seen the size of her arse? It looks like two bowling balls in a rucksack."

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To make tea or not to make tea: that is the question

Want to get on in the office? Don't trip up on the politics. By Kate Hilpern

IT'S YOUR first day in a new company and in an obvious attempt to pull your weight, you answer every ringing phone. Until, that is, some ill-natured woman snaps: "I wouldn't advise invading other people's space like that." So on your next assignment, you take heed - but it turns out to be the wrong decision yet again. "Are you deaf?" a colleague barks. Similar feuds and unspoken quarrels may be caused by the issue of who makes tea and coffee, whether you can borrow other people's terminals, and how many personal items you are allowed to have on your workplace. This, claim business psychologists, is "Office Politics, Nineties Style" - and it is on the increase.

Dr Marilyn Davidson, senior lecturer in organisational psychology at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, explains: "Petty irritations have long been a source of warfare in the office environment. But modern pressures at work mean they are more likely to affect staff relations and prevent company objectives being reached." After all, she says, British people are spending more time than ever in the office - far exceeding any other European country. And today's office designs mean people are forced to sit closer together.

"Job insecurity is at a peak and as it is more than your job's worth to vent anger in the boss's direction, you do so in the direction of colleagues and subordinates," says Davidson. "These people who might have been your friends may now be in direct competition with you.

And because the feelings are deeply personal, the arguments also tend to be." Susan Williams, an occupational psychologist, believes secretarial staff are hit the hardest. Traditionally, they're the ones given all the menial tasks on top of their normal duties, and are also most likely to be talked down to. In the late Eighties, when secretaries and PAs became recognised as a valuable asset, this became outdated. In the Nineties - when "hierarchy" became a bad word - it became even more so. But downsizing and job insecurity has led to its return in many organisations.

Don't be fooled into thinking only those with legitimate power are the leaders

Beverly Stone, author of *Confronting Company Politics* (Macmillan), says this is particularly likely to happen in industries such as banking and retail. "That's because they value competition which can encourage ruthlessness and stress. In a media or advertising-based company, however, things tend to be a lot more flexible and laid-back." According to Neil Crawford, psychotherapist and consultant to organisations, it doesn't help that secretarial staff tend to be women. "Tea and coffee-making - which forms a large part of the focus of today's office politics - is the last vestige of an old system of top dogs and little women. I've researched gender issues in the workplace

and am convinced that there remains a very strong wish to keep women in a certain role." Research shows that women tend to adopt a more team-orientated style at work and therefore tend to be more willing than men to pitch in to achieving humble duties, adds Dr Davidson - which also isn't necessarily in their favour. "You try to help by making the drinks when everyone else is pushed for time - but before you know it, it's become an expectation and you're being taken advantage of." The trick, she advises, is not to be remembered as "that lovely girl who made a nice cup of tea."

Because of their unfamiliarity with the unwritten rules of office politics, temps, believes Crawford, get the rawest deal of all. But Williams disagrees. "If you're not permanent staff, allowances are made - not least because you serve as no threat to the other staff. For this kind of secretarial, it's rather like looking after other people's children. You don't have to get involved in the nitty-gritty of child-rearing because it's accepted that you're going to hand them back at the end of the day. In fact, research shows that people often choose to be temps for the very reason that they don't have to get involved in office politics." According to Edinburgh-based psychologist, Ben

Williams, irrespective of the length of time you expect to work for a company, it is wise to ask about the politics in your first week. "These rules are unlikely to exist in the form of firm policies, but they are usually very powerful. People will have the answers. Caught off guard, they will usually be truthful. Anyway, it's a time when you're expected to ask questions about the running of the office." Even better, he advises, ask a group of colleagues since there is always the chance that a single person may see it as an opportunity to trip you up. "Don't be fooled into thinking that only those with legitimate power are the leaders. People at any level can gain a following and consequently their behaviour, beliefs and values then get emulated. The way they can best achieve that is through newcomers."

The good news is that an increasing number of companies, such as Unilever, Heineken and Philips, are recognising the worst repercussions of office politics and are attempting to avoid it - usually by creating a "sociable" environment. The idea is to recruit the sort of people who will get on. Apart from stimulating creativity because it fosters team working rather than competition, it aims to encourage people to go beyond the limits of their job if they can find ways of helping their colleagues. In other words, you'll want to make the tea for them. "Of course, you realise we don't sell beer," a marketing manager of Heineken was recently quoted as saying. "We sell emotional sociability."



THE INFORMATION DAILY

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NEW FILMS

ACTRESSES (15, 88 mins)

Director: Ventura Pons
Starring: Rosa Maria Sarda, Nuria Espert
Cult Spanish director Pons rustles up a goody-eyed bit of cinematic navel-gazing in this ode to the acting lark. Shot back in 1997 (before last year's art-house hit, *Cororesses*), *Actresses* details the earnest research of Mercè Pons's aspiring thespian - interviewing three diverse old hands (Rosa Maria Sarda, Nuria Espert, Anna Lizaran) about their life and times in the greasepaint trade. Part acting masterclass, part loquacious reminiscence, *Actresses* slowly steers in an ambience of oppressive theatricality. Its performers talk as if they're being paid by the word.
Repertory: ICA Cinema

HAPPINESS (18, 134 mins)

Director: Todd Solondz
Starring: Dylan Baker, Philip Seymour Hoffman
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.
West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket

AN IDEAL HUSBAND (PG, 100 mins)

Director: Oliver Parker
Starring: Cate Blanchett, Minnie Driver
Stuffed-shirt politico Sir Robert Chiltern (Jeremy Northam) is being held to ransom by Julianne Moore's brittle blackmailer. Wife Cate Blanchett looks on in horror, while louché Rupert Everett and effervescent Minnie Driver provide the comic relief. And so it goes. Oliver Parker's film is a proficient but oddly mechanical overhaul of Oscar Wilde's still-pertinent satire of middle-class hypocrisy - the friction between the public and private sphere. The sharp dialogue is rather blurred by the snappy editing and sumptuous design, but bright playing from a starry cast helps to paper over the cracks.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham

Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, The Tricycle Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road And local cinemas

PROMETHEUS (15, 130 mins)

Director: Tony Harrison
Starring: Michael Feast, Walter Sparrow
Tony Harrison's dense and literate film-poem kicks off with a visit from Hermes (Michael Feast) to a depressed mining town in Yorkshire, before moseying off through the smogstack landscapes of polluted Eastern Europe. Harrison's rigorous, locomotive verse strokes an awkward and overlogged narrative (updating Aeschylus's *Prometheus Bound*) into life, but it's still too long, too ill-paced, too heavy handed in its eco-conscious message. Two hours in, and those rhyming couplets start to grate a bit.
West End: Notting Hill Coronet

RETURN TO PARADISE (15, 109 mins)

Director: Joseph Ruben
Starring: Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche, Joaquín Phoenix, David Conrad
Eden takes on a definite whiff of sulphur in the course of Joseph Ruben's fact-based saga, as two strutting graduate travellers (Vince Vaughn and David Conrad) are impelled to return to the scene of their former crimes when an erstwhile buddy (Joaquín Phoenix) is busted for drugs possession in Malaysia. A classic morality play in the "what would you do if?" mould, *Return to Paradise* still conspires to bungle its ready-made drama. Opening out as a taut marriage of *Midnight Express* and *The Beach*, its inherent tension seeps away throughout a pedestrian second half. A love angle between Vaughn and Anne Heche's earnest defence lawyer looks tacked on as an afterthought.
West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End And local cinemas

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

AMERICAN HISTORY X (18, 117 mins)

American History X is a liberal essay on right-wing fanaticism, which nonetheless indulges in some dubious Nazi chic.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

ARLINGTON ROAD (15, 117 mins)

Mark Pellington's intriguingly staged paranoia thriller stars Jeff Bridges and Tim Robbins.
West End: Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

AN AUTUMN TALE (U, 111 mins)

The final part of Eric Rohmer's *Tales of the Four Seasons* is airy elegiac and as warm as sunshine.
West End: Curzon Mincema, Renoir

BEDROOMS AND HALLWAYS (15, 96 mins)

The latest offering from *This Life* school of British film-making sees Kevin McKidd's giddy Londoner being put through all manner of romantic hoops in the run-up to his 30th birthday.
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Fulham Rd, Repertory: The Pullman Everyman

BLAST FROM THE PAST (12, 111mins)

Hugh Wilson's workmanlike Cold War satire starring Brendan Fraser.
West End: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

CENTRAL STATION (15, 110 mins)

Central Station trails Fernando Montenegro's retired schoolteacher and her abandoned nine-year-old charge on a hunt through the badlands of Sertao for the boy's missing father.
West End: Curzon Mayfair, Ritzy Cinema

A CIVIL ACTION (15, 115 mins)

John Travolta's ambulance-chasing lawyer takes a shot at redemption in this complex and frequently absorbing courtroom saga.
West End: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, And local cinemas

THE FACULTY (15, 104 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

GODS AND MONSTERS (15, 105 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Curzon Soho, Metro, Virgin Fulham Road, Repertory: Phoenix Cinema, Watermans Arts Centre

HIGH ART (18, 102 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Curzon Soho, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG, 114 mins)

Roberto Benigni's Oscar-winning comedy about fascist Italy and the death-camps.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Repertory: Phoenix Cinema, And local cinemas

MIGHTY JOE (PG, 114 mins)

This children's comedy is disposable Disney fluff, yet it boasts a ready charm that's hard to dislike.
West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Chelsea, And local cinemas

NÓ (15, 85 mins)

Robert LePage's third feature obliquely spotlights Quebec's push for independence in 1970 with an absurdist parallel that crosscuts between the trials of a troubled actress and her activist boyfriend. But its fascinating elements fail to gel: its scenes unravel; its reach exceeds its grasp.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre

PAYBACK (18, 110 mins)

Based on the source novel that inspired John Boorman's *Point Blank*, this rumbling revenge thriller sends its double-crossed-and-left-for-dead anti-hero (Mel Gibson) on a mission to get even.
West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

PLUNKETT AND MACLEAN (15, 100 mins)

Plunkett and Maclean (Robert Carlyle and Joany Lee Miller) are rakish Dick Turpin cutting a dash through 18th-century society. Instead of a decent plot, director Jake Scott offers noise, colour and virtuoso pro-promo visuals.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, And local cinemas

THE RED VIOLIN (15, 132 mins)

François Girard's daisy chain of historical vignettes follows the course of a cursed violin down the centuries. Unfortunately, a thrift-shop budget leaves many of the period backdrops looking like cast-offs from a BBC schools programme. More crucially, Girard's bitty narrative leaves the film labouring in third gear throughout.
West End: Barbican Screen, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Swiss Cottage, And local cinemas

THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U, 80 mins)

Kids, no doubt, will eat this feature-length cartoon up. Adults should simply grin and bear it.
West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15, 123 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, And local cinemas

SLAM (15, 99 mins)

Even if slam-poetry's clanking rhymes make you want to "slam" the perpetrator's head in a car door, Marc Levin's drama still carries an emotional force.
West End: Metro, Ritzy Cinema, And local cinemas

TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG, 117 mins)

Franco Zeffirelli's *Tea with Mussolini* is a typically loquacious tale of three dotty Brits (Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright) adrift in Mussolini-era Tuscany.
West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, And local cinemas

THE THIN RED LINE (15, 170 mins)

Terrence Malick's long-awaited return to the director's chair is a fabulous, fever-struck war film.
West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero

WAKING NED (PG, 91 mins)

This rattle-bag of a black comedy is just too air-brushed for its own good.
West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon West End, Virgin Chelsea, And local cinemas

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Gods and Monsters (15)

A droll speculation on the last days of 1930s horror auteur James Whale (Ian McKellen), who is hypnotised by the alluring form of his Beverly Hills gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Happiness (18)

Set in New Jersey, Todd Solondz's second film is a comedy of loneliness and sexual deviancy that reaffirms this young writer-director's talent.

High Art (18)

A portrait of the artist as lesbian screw-up. Lisa Cholodenko's bitterly witty take on New York jiving (and dying) boasts one of the performances of the year from Ally Sheedy.

The Faculty (15)

Kevin Williamson does it again with this sci-fi tale of alien invaders. Beautiful people, a sharp script, subversive morals, Piper Laurie... why can't all teen films be like this?

Shakespeare in Love (15)

This enjoyable, Oscar-laden historical romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes (right) and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) head an impressive cast.

ANTHONY QUINN AND CHARLOTTE O'SULLIVAN

Good (Donmar Warehouse, London)

Starring Charles Dance, CP Taylor's play (right) about accommodations with conscience is revived in a sensitive production by Michael Grandage. To 22 May

Uncle Vanya (Mercury Theatre, Colchester)

David Hunt's quietly considered and beautifully paced production of Chekhov's tragicomic is a triumph of understated emotion. Do not miss. Ends Sat

Forbidden Broadway (Jermyn Street Theatre, London)

Deliciously spiteful and tremendously funny selection of musical theatre spoofs fromondheim to *The Lion King* via Elaine Paige. To 16 May

Volpone (Swan Theatre, Stratford)

Comedies don't come any funnier or more astringent than Ben Jonson's brilliant dissection of avaricious, over-reaching egotism. To 9 Oct

A Midsummer Night's Dream (Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford)

In Michael Boyd's beguiling staging, Josette Simon's Amazonian Titania is sex-on-very-long-legs and could devour Tina Turner for breakfast. To 9 Oct

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery)

Big, revelatory retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master), legendary for his great drip paintings, but virtually unknown here for 40 years. To 6 Jun

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)

Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture ever. Men as icons of power, women as exquisite mixtures of flesh and fabric. Ends Sun

Thinking Aloud (Camden Arts Centre)

Sculptor Richard Wentworth curates this curious and cheering exploration of creativity in art, design and life: an assortment of rough drafts, doodles, try-outs and models (right). To 30 May

Andreas Gursky (Dean Gallery, Edinburgh)

Photographs 1994-98: huge, high-finish, micro-detailed, digitally manipulated images of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, hotel foyer. Vistas of more than the eye can see. To 16 May

Antony Gormley's 'Field' (Firstsite at Roman House, Colchester)

One of the great hits of the decade: a sea of 40,000 pint-sized clay men - obedient, expectant, menacing, and stopping in a line at your feet. To 23 May

TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET

(0870-000077) @ Piccadilly Circus
Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm
Festen 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.35pm
Milly and Jackie 1.15pm, 2.25pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm
The Opposite of Sex 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-371 3561) @ Piccadilly Circus
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 2.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.35pm
Seul Centre Tour 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVE

(0870-902 0402) @ Leicester Square
Bedrooms and Hallways 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.15pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870-902 0403) @ Leicester Square
Hedwig and the Angry Inch 2pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm
Né 2.10pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 8.35pm, 10.10pm
La Vie Revee des Anges 4.30pm, 8.50pm
La Vita e Bella 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTENHAM CRT RD

(0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Gods and Monsters 1.10pm, 3.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.10pm
An Ideal Husband 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm
Plunkett and Maclean 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-438 8881) @ Moorfields Barbican
An Ideal Husband 1.15pm, 3.40pm
The Red Violin 6pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square
An Ideal Husband 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-351 3742) @ Clapham
Bedrooms and Hallways 4.40pm, 6.50pm
A Civil Action 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 7.50pm, 10.10pm
Happiness 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm
La Vita e Bella 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm, 10.10pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-351 3742) @ Green Park Central Station
3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm, 10.30pm

CURZON MINEMA

(0171-351 3742) @ Hyde Park Corner
Cote d'Azur 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.10pm

CURZON SOHO

(0171-351 3742) @ Leicester Square
Agathe 3pm, 7pm
Gods and Monsters 12.00pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm
La Vita e Bella 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm, 10.10pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQ

(0870-000077) @ Leicester Square
Action 6.15pm, 9pm
Tea with Mussolini 12.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 6.55pm, 9.10pm
Night of the Hunter 2.15pm, 7.15pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 6053) @ Notting Hill Gate
Happiness 3.10pm, 5.25pm, 8.45pm

METRO

(0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly Circus
Agathe 3pm, 7pm
Gods and Monsters 12.00pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm
La Vita e Bella 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm, 10.10pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6053) @ Notting Hill Gate
Prometheus 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 8.45pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0870-000077) @ Camden Town
American History X 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm
Happiness 12.20pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm
La Vita e Bella 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm, 10.10pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0870-000077) @ High Street
Kensington The Faculty 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm
An Ideal Husband 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm
Plunkett and Maclean 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7.00pm, 9.20pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm, 10.10pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0171-437 4531) @ Marble Arch
The Faculty 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.15pm
An Ideal Husband 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 5.70pm, 7.95pm, 10.20pm
Payback 1.35pm, 4.00pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm
Return to Paradise 1.40pm, 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm
The Opposite of Sex 7.10pm, 9.40pm
Payback 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 5.65pm, 7.90pm, 10.15pm
Return to Paradise 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm
The Opposite of Sex 7.10pm, 9.40pm

ODEON MEZZANINE

(0870-000077) @ Leicester Square
Bedrooms and Hallways 2.10pm, 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm
Little Voice 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7.00pm, 9.20pm
The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm, 10.10pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(0870-000077) @ Swiss Cottage
The Faculty 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.15pm
Festen 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm
An Ideal Husband 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm
Payback 1.35pm, 4.00pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm
Return to Paradise 1.40pm, 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm

ODEON WEST END

(0870-000077) @ Leicester Square
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm
Return to Paradise 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm
The Opposite of Sex 7.10pm, 9.40pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA

(0171-434 4153) @ Piccadilly Circus
Everest 4.55pm, 9.05pm (+ short More)
The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm, 10.10pm
T-Rex Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm

PLAZA

(0870-000077) @ Piccadilly Circus
Festen 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm
Saving Private Ryan 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.30pm, 10.10pm

RENOIR

(0171-357 8402) @ Russell Square
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm
Happiness 3.10pm, 5.25pm, 8.45pm

RITZY CINEMA

(0171-733 2225) @ Euston Station
Happiness 3.20pm, 5.35pm, 8.50pm
Life as a House 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.10pm
An Ideal Husband 1.45pm, 4.10pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm
Payback 1.35pm, 4.00pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm
Return to Paradise 1.40pm, 4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

(0171-905 0772) @ Baker Street
Happiness 3.05pm, 5.20pm, 8.35pm
An Ideal Husband 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.10pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

(0171-905 0772) @ Angel Happiness
3.05pm, 5.20pm, 8.35pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL

(0171-435 3366) @ Belgrave Park
Happiness 3.05pm, 5.20pm, 8.35pm

THE TRICYCLE CINEMA

(0171-268 1000) @ Kibson An Ideal Husband
1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.10pm

UCI WHITELEYS

(0870-000077) @ Euston Station
A Bug's Life 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.10pm
Elizabeth 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.05pm
Return to Paradise 1.30pm, 4.00pm, 6.25pm, 8.50pm
The Opposite of Sex 7.10pm, 9.40pm

WARRNER VILLAGE

(0171-660 8050) @ Warner Village
East of Eden 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.10pm
Cry the Beloved Country 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.30pm
The Faculty 4.30pm, 6.55pm, 9.10pm
The Faculty 4.30pm, 6.55pm, 9.10pm

